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## PREFACE

### *TO THE FIRST EDITION.*

---

THE following Work is presented to the Profession, and to the Public, not for the purpose of advancing what is already known on the nature of Liver Complaints, and Bilious Disorders, or of detracting from the merit of preceding authors, but to point out to their attention those minutiae, in regard to the symptoms and treatment of these maladies, which either have been overlooked, or met with but an incomplete or careless investigation.

As all the best informed writers agree, that affections of the liver are often apt to be mistaken, from their similarity to stomach complaints, and even some affections of the abdominal viscera ; it is obvious, that too much nicety cannot be observed in pointing out the distinctions which more particularly mark them ; and if this is necessary with the members of the profession themselves, it is still more so with the public at large.

It is well known, that popular works of



medicine have been, of late years, very much the study of the people in general, equally with the profession; and the care of every man's health is an object, with him, of the first attention: A writer, therefore, should have always this object in view; in tracing his subject, he should do it in such a manner, that the truth it conveys, may produce conviction on the patient, as well as on the professional reader: If his work is written in this manner, he confers a benefit on society; and he prevents many from falling victims to error in the treatment, or placing themselves in improper hands. Every man becomes thus a critic on his own complaint, and it is of the highest consequence, that he should be able to form a correct, rather than an erroneous, judgment. Besides, patients are often placed at a distance from professional aid; by works of this kind, they are better enabled to give a proper description of their ailments, and thus to furnish a practitioner with more accurate information, in order to obtain that relief which they could not otherwise acquire, without the previous knowledge which such writings impart. It is not meant, however, to go so far, as to say that



every man, by such means, may become his own physician ; this is an unfortunate error, and has often been carried too far : The best that popular treatises on medicine can do, is to put patients on their guard, and in doing this, they are certainly of great utility to mankind.

The following work then is designed to shew the frequency of liver complaints and bilious disorders in this country, to point out the danger of their being mistaken for others of a different nature, and by rousing the feelings of patients for their situation, to stimulate them to call for professional assistance, at all times necessary, and particularly so in diseases of a dangerous and insidious tendency. By their acquaintance with the symptoms, as here pointed out, they will not be deficient in the means of painting them in their true colours, and of laying the proper stress, whether they consult personally, or by letter, on those leading facts which regulate professional opinion.

This work commences with observations on such derangements of the hepatic organs as influence the biliary secretion, introduced by a general view of the structure and func-



tions of the liver, pointing out its vast importance in the animal economy, and the various uses of its secretion to the health, and correct operations of the constitution.

With these are interspersed particular remarks on the gastric fluid, on some affections of the intestines, and those parts sympathizing with the hepatic system; likewise some new observations on the various appearances of the biliary secretion, &c.

This treatise is illustrated and confirmed by a numerous selection of cases, shewing the deceptive appearance of liver complaints, and the great danger of their being mistaken for other affections of the neighbouring organs, particularly of the lungs, as demonstrated in the course of the work; where it will be seen that several disorders, primarily originating in the liver, have been unfortunately and erroneously considered, as having a different seat; such, among others, are coughs, asthma, and even pulmonary consumption itself.

In treating the subject of liver complaints, there is first given an accurate account of their leading symptoms, both in the acute and chronic state, and particularly of those varieties which mark the latter; so that no



mistake can occur in distinguishing them. A view is next taken of the biliary secretion, and its importance, and various uses pointed out in the animal economy. Some erroneous opinions on the gastric fluid are then noticed, shewing that bile, in the natural state of the stomach, never passes into this organ, except in the act of violent vomiting, or when the biliary ducts are obstructed. The structure and functions of the intestines are also particularly examined, with a view to shew the action of the bile on them, and the consequences which attend a morbid condition, or deficiency of this fluid.

With such preliminary information, essential to a full acquaintance with their history and nature, the treatment of liver complaints commences; and the necessity for a proper and careful examination of the secretions is strongly and minutely pointed out, and enforced in conducting it. The principles of cure are, at the same time, accurately laid down, and a persevering observance of them strongly recommended.

A small chapter will be found on dropsy, as the sequel of liver complaints, where neglected or improperly treated.



# PREFACE

## *TO THE PRESENT EDITION.*

---

A Second Edition of the present work being called for in a few months, affords the best proof of its utility, and of the interest that the public take from their own feelings and experience in the subject.

Though numerous professional works have appeared on bilious diseases from the time of Dr. Saunders, whose elaborate treatise gave a lead to practitioners in the metropolis, yet none of them have been adapted for popular use.

A plain detail of facts is what every patient wishes to know, and a work which comes home to himself, and states his own complaints and their remedy, is all he cares for; this has been anxiously studied in the present treatise.

The author has written only from what he has seen, and has noted only what he knows will be useful: His own sufferings



were his first motive in the publication, and he felt it his duty to convey that instruction to others, which he found so necessary in his own situation, when under disease.

The parade of learning he has abandoned for the sake of benefitting society, and if the rules and principles he has laid down are strictly attended to, he flatters himself he will receive the thanks of the invalid and sufferer, for pointing his attention to the true and only means of relief in bilious disorders.

Since the first edition of the work, not only has the author been flattered by the numerous communications of invalids applying for his advice, but he has also had the no less pleasing satisfaction of being consulted by many of the first professional characters, who have given up their own sentiments and adopted his, from their conviction of his greater experience in hepatic and bilious affections.

Every position he has stated is illustrated by cases, shewing its veracity, and that it is not built on any fanciful idea, but is the result of practical knowledge; the approbation, therefore, which his labour has re-



ceived, induces him to use his best efforts to render the present edition more complete.

With this view, he has subjoined with additional cases, a chapter on gall-stones and biliary concretions, as a cause of jaundice.

If, therefore, it shall be found that any addition, however small, has been made to the facts already accumulated in the former edition of this work, it will have the effect of increasing the stock of medical science, and, consequently, of doing acceptable service to the profession, and to the public at large.

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PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS  
ON THE  
*NATURE AND TREATMENT*  
OF  
LIVER COMPLAINTS,  
&c.

---

WHEN we contemplate the form of the human body, its delicate structure and nice arrangement, it cannot be matter of surprise, that it should so often become the subject of disease, especially when we reflect on the numerous ills, to which it is daily and hourly exposed, as well from external causes, as from its own organization, and the operation of its own powers.

Before entering upon the diseases of the liver, and in order to explain their nature more fully, it will be proper to give a general view of the structure of that organ, its leading functions and pecu-



liar secretion, in respect to its nature, quality, consistence, and variations. In the economy of the animal system, in all its subordinate gradations, there is no organ so constantly met with as the liver, and wherever found, there is no apparatus of secretion so complicated as it displays for the preparation of bile.

The great size of the liver, the number and magnitude of the parts which compose its complicated vascular machinery, its enormous magnitude in the early stage of foetal existence, and its especial connection with the circulating organs at that period, all lead us to conclude that it answers some other purpose in the economy besides the secretion of bile.

The organization indeed of the liver is peculiar; it differs from every other organ of the body, in having the office of secretion carried on by a vein, in place of an artery, which performs the double office of secretion and nutrition in every other gland, except in the liver.

This organ in its most healthy state, is of a reddish brown colour, is composed of a tolerably firm and close substance, consisting of a closely united

tongeries of different vessels, and is of considerable weight, especially when increased by the accumulation of disease. It lies in the right hypochondrium or upper part of the abdomen, extending a little towards the left side, more particularly when increased in size by the attack of disease, and is situated, immediately under the diaphragm, or muscle dividing the chest and abdomen; but it is more deeply covered by the ribs, in the male than in the female sex.

When we lie on the right side, the liver is supported in the cavity of the corresponding false ribs, and presses on none of the surrounding organs: hence we commonly sleep in that attitude. In lying on the other side, the weight of the liver comes upon the stomach, which produces unpleasant feelings after a meal. In the natural situation of the organ, it corresponds nearly to the level of the basis of the chest, being sometimes a little above, but seldom below. The right extremity also of the liver is situated much lower than the left, and is the most bulky part of the organ.

Its principal parts are its ligaments, its surfaces, its margins or edges, its tubercles, its lobes, and its



vessels. By its ligaments, it is attached to the different surrounding parts, and it is from the influence of these ligaments, when affected by hepatic diseases, that irritation, pain, and uneasiness of different parts of the chest and abdomen, arise. Its surfaces are a superior one, smooth and convex, which is applied to the diaphragm; and an inferior one, unequal and concave, which looks towards the abdominal viscera. Its lobes are a right and left one, and a lobulus spigelii. Its vessels are the vena portarum, the hepatic artery, the hepatic vein, and the biliary ducts. Its nerves are small in comparison to the bulk of the organ, and hence considerable derangements may take place without being very sensibly felt by the patients. Its margins or edges are a posterior and superior one obtuse, and an anterior and inferior one acute; and it is of particular importance, in judging of the state of the liver, to know with accuracy, the feel of this anterior and inferior margin or edge in its natural and healthy condition.

The circulation of the liver is an operation in its structure, which requires attention, as on it the

peculiar secretion of the organ depends; it may be justly considered as the grand reservoir, which receives into its circulation most of the returning blood of the body, charged with the several impurities it has received in its progress, which are again removed by its secretion, and converted into that fluid we term the bile: the bile therefore is formed for a two-fold purpose, it consists of the collected colluvies of the constitution; and is a fluid also prepared for a particular and useful office.

The liver is evidently the largest gland of the body. Its ordinary weight in a healthy adult is about three pounds, but the most remarkable variations in the size of it, are those which occur in chronic diseases of the organ, sometimes it is diminished and very manifestly indurated; more frequently it is enlarged, sometimes so much as to weigh ten, or twelve pounds, or even more. It may be said to be composed of a variety of vessels, the extreme branches of which, are intermixed so as to form numberless pulpy corpuscles, named from their resemblance to small kernels of fruit. From this circumstance of its minute



circulation, the seat of disease is oftener here than elsewhere, and here the blood is apt to lose more of that principle on which its vital energy depends.

The gall-bladder is attached to the posterior, and almost the inferior part of the great lobe of the liver, is firmly bound to its surface by the peritoneum, and is furnished with its peculiar fluid, through the hepatic and cystic-ducts; the bile which descends by the hepatic-duct, meets with more resistance in passing into the duodenum in the empty state of the gall-bladder, than in its regurgitation; so when there is any considerable resistance by aliment or wind within the duodenum, and the gall-bladder is not fully distended, the bile passes upwards to be lodged there for a certain time, and after remaining there, it is pressed down either by the pressure of the stomach, or the action of the external parts of the diaphragm and abdominal muscles, or by a supposed action of its own coats, through the cystic, and through the common duct, into the cavity of the intestine; this duct opens into the duodenum in an oblique direction, first passing through the external tunic, and then pier-

cing the other coats, after running between each a very little way ; this economy serves two useful purposes, to promote the discharge of bile, and to prevent its return. Hence the cystic and hepatic bile though they have the same primary origin, yet they differ in consistence and quality ; for, by the stagnation, changes are made, the thinner parts are taken away by the absorbent vessels ; but there may be at the same time other changes made in consequence of the stagnation, intestine changes, which cannot be so easily pointed out as that of its simple consistence.

The expulsive force of the bile is little more than what is received from the mere pressure of the stomach and diaphragm, for the muscular fibres of the proper membrane are too weak and inconsiderable to possess any power which may be thought to contract the gall-bladder.

From this view, the nature or property of the bile is of two kinds, the hepatic or that forced directly into the intestines ; and the cystic or that which passes into the gall-bladder, and is there allowed to accumulate.

There is no direct communication between the



liver and gall-bladder, and consequently no other way for the bile to enter the gall-bladder except by the cystic duct. The inner surface of the gall-bladder is elegantly reticulated and furnishes a viscid mucus that mingles with the bile, and this is the more necessary, as the bile in the gall-bladder by stagnation, becomes more thick, bitter, and exalted in quality than that flowing from the liver.

In considering the secreted fluids of the body according to the opinion of Van Swieten, "The bile and phlegm are of so opposite a nature, that they can never predominate together, bile being the greatest detergent, dissolvent, and attenuant of all pituitous matter."

## SECRETION OF THE BILE.

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THE bile, or secretion of the liver, is formed in the substance of the organ ; it passes from thence by biliferous tubes, all which end in the hepatic-duct, but a greater or less proportion passes by the cystic-duct, to be lodged in the gall-bladder. Though the principal use of this fluid, as we have observed, is to separate and discharge the feculent part of the aliment, yet there is every reason to presume, that there are other purposes, which it is intended to serve in the animal economy, seeing that for its preparation, nature has appointed so large and complicated an organ, for the bile seems necessary to perfect the assimilation of the aliment and to give to the chyle some principle, which enables it to impart fresh energy to the general mass in its distribution through the system.

The natural appearance of this secretion in colour,



is a yellowish-green, of a mucilaginous or oleose consistence, resembling in its frothiness when dissolved in water, a solution of soap and water. In its taste, it is more bitter in the human subject than in other animals.

With regard to the quantity of bile that is secreted, and poured into the duodenum in the twenty-four hours in a state of health, there has been much dispute among physiologists. The ordinary quantity found in the gall-bladder, is usually about an ounce, although it has not unfrequently been found to contain a much larger portion, more especially in a state of disease. A remarkable case of this kind, will be found recorded in the *Edinburgh Medical Essays*, in a boy who died from an accident, where the gall-bladder was distended to such an enormous degree as to contain eight pounds of bile.

The biliary fluid, in health, probably passes directly into the intestine, while the assimilation of food is going on ; but when the empty state of the duodenum causes the end of the ductus communis choledochus to be compressed by its muscular coat, then it regurgitates into the gall-bladder ; when

the stomach is also distended with aliment, the gall-bladder undergoes a certain degree of compression, by which the bile passes out into the intestinal canal. We should imagine that the quantity of bile secreted in health varies in different individuals independent of disease ; and hence, what is sufficient for exciting the action of the bowels in one individual, is not so in another ; we can only judge from its effects, whether it is in excess, or formed in too small a quantity, and this is the most certain criterion. However various the uses of this fluid may be, it is clear that its most important action is confined to the alimentary canal ; and there its different offices are,

I. To extricate the chyle from the chyme or digested food as sent into that part of the intestines termed the duodenum.

II. To excite the peristaltic action of the intestines, is one great and important part of its use : this should be particularly attended to by practitioners ; for, if defective, this peristaltic motion cannot be sufficient for the expulsion of the collected matter, without such increased and violent action of their muscular powers, as to lay the foundation of stric-



ture, ulceration and its consequences. Nor can this necessary motion of the intestines be properly accomplished by the hepatic bile alone if the cystic is wanting, both are of equal importance to the system, and require their elaborate union in order to enable the bowels completely to perform their functions, and this is sufficiently confirmed by what happens in wounds of the gall-bladder in animals, where the flow of bile in this incorporated state is prevented, and from this cause it generally occasions death in a few days.

Hence, in all cases of slow action of the bowels, it is a matter of high import, and should be closely attended to by the practitioner, to observe, with minuteness, the character of the alvine discharges, in order, with correctness, to judge of the quantity and quality of the bile present, whether it is sufficient for the purpose, or an additional supply is required. The same observation should take place where a diarrhœa prevails, accurately to ascertain whether the quantity of bile is in excess, and to rectify that fault equally with the former.

III. The third use of this fluid is to impart the yellow colour to the discharge, and this is confirmed

by the pale appearance of the fæces in cases of jaundice, and also in children where it has not attained its complete elaborate state.

IV. A fourth purpose which this secretion serves, is to prevent the accumulation of mucus and to neutralize any disengaged acid in the primæ viæ, and this it does by absterging and attenuating the mucus and thus preventing its collection. So effectual is the bile for this end, that in Germany, inspissated ox-gall is a common prescription, and an effectual one in stomach complaints depending on this cause.

It may be considered as an established fact, that when the bile is deficient in quantity or too mild and inactive in its quality, or of so thick and tenacious consistence as to obstruct its canals, then it is unfit for the healthy purposes of the animal economy, and must give rise to various forms of disease, connected with such deviations.

To understand more fully the nature and composition of this elaborate and important fluid, it may perhaps be proper here to give its chemical analysis. It contains,

I. A large proportion of water.



II. A substance closely resembling animal albumen.

III. A peculiar resinous inflammable matter naturally and intimately mixed with it.

IV. Soda, forming a kind of soap or saponaceous extract.

V. Some neutral salts ;

VI. And a small quantity of oxyd of iron.

Besides these constituents, there is a colouring and odorant matter, but it is not yet ascertained whether these are properties of any of the above-mentioned ingredients, or whether they belong to a particular substance.

Some chemists have thought, that they could likewise detect a saccharine matter in bile, but the experiments to this purpose, have by no means been conclusive.

The secretion of the pancreas is a subject which has hitherto been but little investigated, yet may it not be considered as a stimulus to the peristaltic action of the biliary-duct, in the same manner as the bile is the peculiar stimulus to that action of the intestines ?

We may also observe here, that as the bile is a viscid fluid, and from inactivity of body in fat

animals, is known to thicken, which happens no less so in the human subject from the same causes, especially where the person is under the influence of depressing passions, as grief, &c. rendering the circulation languid ; under these circumstances it easily coagulates into a hard, somewhat resinous, and often stoney substance ; thus concretions, or gall-stones, are formed in the gall-bladder, and even are found here more frequently than in the urinary-bladder, as is every day discovered by dissection.

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## DISEASES OF THE LIVER.

AFTER this general view of the structure, functions, and economy of the liver, we come better prepared for entering upon the consideration of its diseases. And when we reflect on the importance of the organ, and the functions it performs in the economy of life ; together with the variety and delicacy of its structure, we cannot be surprized to find it on many occasions the seat of extensive and dangerous diseases.



But without going into so minute a statement, it may be observed that the liver, like most other parts of the body, is liable to inflammation under two forms, the acute and the chronic ; and it has generally been supposed that these varieties of disease consist, in fact, of a difference in the seat of the inflammation. Some physicians have suggested that the inflammation is of the acute form, when the enveloping membrane of the liver is affected ; and of the chronic form, when the parenchyma, or substance of the organ itself is inflamed ; while others have conceived, that the acute inflammation appears, when the extremities of the hepatic artery are particularly affected ; and the chronic, when the branches of the hepatic vein, or vena portæ, which conveys the principal portion of blood to the liver, is the seat of the morbid action : it is of very little consequence, however, which of these opinions is right in a practical point of view.

The former by their active operation and rapid influence, unless quickly counteracted, soon destroy the energies of life ; the latter, by their slow and insidious progress, give a check to the enjoyment of health, and gradually undermine the constitu-

tion without immediate alarm, until the evil has proceeded so far as too often to baffle recovery. Of the latter, there is no class of disease, to which this observation can be more generally applied, than, to those which are termed bilious disorders, or liver complaints, and there is no subject of practical medicine, which calls for more exact discrimination, and skilful management on the part of the practitioner.

Bilious disorders are in this country insidious in their attack, tardy in their progress, and considerably varied in their appearance ; hence too many fall victims to the ignorance or misapprehension of those, to whom they confide themselves, from the true nature of the disease not being seasonably detected, or from the injudicious treatment of the disorder though known to depend on this cause.

It is by experience, in a tropical climate, that the real nature of hepatic affections, and bilious disorders in general can be best comprehended, and their successful management more correctly understood. It is here diseases advance with an almost incredible force, their effects are most serious ; and, an active and energetic use of medicine is the only



resource, to check their rapid and alarming progress : In this school, then, a practitioner has the most enlarged opportunities of making his observations. He learns here to apply his knowledge with boldness and effect, and instead of trusting to the weak and inefficient efforts of nature, as in colder climates, he is impelled to a different line of conduct, to meet them promptly with all the means which experience and observation render him master of. It was in a warm climate these truths were first impressed on my mind, and they have acquired additional strength since my return to my native country.

The functions of the liver and its peculiar secretion, the bile, have a most important influence in every climate, in the production and aggravation of disease ; and it is not until within these few years, since our intercourse with the tropical regions has been extended, and the treatment of bilious diseases in their own hemisphere has been frequent, that the importance of this organ in the animal economy has been duly estimated, and that many of the phenomena in disease have been satisfactorily explained by referring to this viscus as the source from which

they originate. By the ancient physicians, though correct in their treatment, its morbid effects were confined to a very few diseases ; modern observation, however, and an expanded train of experience, have pointed out this as the hydra, which, oftener than any other morbid cause, proves fatal to mankind.

Indeed, the more we contemplate the structure of this organ ; its magnitude compared with others ; its peculiar circulation, and the vast quantity of blood which passes through it, the more we must be satisfied that it is intended for a leading operation in the functions of life : Any considerable interruption or irregularity of that operation, must be attended with the most serious and fatal consequences ; and even every lesser deviation from its natural state must be felt more or less, in the production of general derangement and disorder of the system, of which it forms so principal a part.

My intention, therefore, is to point out the absolute and indispensable necessity there is, for a more minute and close investigation of the changes to which the liver is liable, and of the variations to which the biliary secretion is exposed from different causes ; at one time becoming completely



locked up, and at another time being secretions poured out in the most depraved, acrid, and vitiated condition.

Having myself been long a sufferer from a diseased state of this organ, while in a tropical climate, and having surmounted the danger to which I was exposed, I was necessarily led to reflect deeply on this subject, and to devise, what were the best measures that could be adopted, to counteract its diseases in all their peculiarities ; my own case afforded me much interesting information, and in some degree enabled me to form a more correct judgment of its general operation on the human frame.

From an ample experience thus acquired, in tracing the appearance, and conducting the treatment of various affections of the liver, and bilious diseases abroad, in the different settlements of the Honorable East India Company, at Madras, Calcutta, Bombay, Batavia, China, &c. I could not conceive that a morbid bilious cause, so active and so general in the tropical countries, should lose its reigning and paramount influence over the animal economy even in this country. Ever since my return, this subject has particularly engaged my at

tention, and my own observations, as well as those of my medical friends who have been in the East Indies, support me in the assertion, that liver complaints and bilious disorders, are as frequent here as in the warmer latitudes : but here they assume a different character ; their appearances are less distinctly marked ; the vitiated secretion does not shew the same rapid progress and strong apparent change, though the derangement it produces is not less severe or active in the destruction of health.

Indeed there can be no doubt, that bile in different states and conditions, produces the appearance and apes almost every other disorder, and of consequence great attention and experience are required, to distinguish properly its operation and effects. It is to trace then these latent, these insidious and less obvious forms of attack so often mistaken, and that too fatally for patients, that the present work is intended ; in which I shall first consider the more perceptible forms of hepatic derangement, known to every medical practitioner, and then point out the varieties usually met with in this country, under other and mistaken denominations.



In entering upon the subject we may observe that diseases of the liver are most frequent in the autumnal season, or near the vernal and autumnal equinox, when the weather is changeable, and excessive heat is succeeded by severe cold.

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## INFLAMMATION OF THE LIVER.

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### I. ACUTE HEPATITIS.

THIS acute form of the malady is not so often met with in England ; it is more generally the production of a vertical sun by the excessive stimulus of heat, affecting the slow circulation of the organ, and exciting it to morbid and irregular action, with an immoderate increase of its secretion. The symptoms of this disease, generally commence with rigors or shiverings, followed by a pungent pain of the right side, which is felt also under the margin of the ribs, shooting more particularly in the direction of the back, and to the shoulder blade,

cough, oppression in the respiration, nausea, sickness, often with a vomiting of apparently bilious matter, accompanied with considerable fever ; great watchfulness, and occasional delirium ; great thirst, the tongue generally covered with a white crust, extending also to the mouth and fauces ; dejection of spirits, sometimes hiccup ; loss of appetite, and difficulty of lying, except on the affected side, yet instances now and then occur, where the patient is unable to lie on either side ; pressure also on the region of the liver, where there is usually some tension, induces here considerable increase of pain and tendency to cough, and the cough attending this disease, is more generally dry than moist ; the bowels are frequently irregular, though oftener slow than otherwise ; the urine secreted in small quantities, is of a high colour, and often tinged with bile ; the pulse is hard and strong, sometimes exceeding one hundred and twenty in a minute, and at times intermitting ; it is attended occasionally with a jaundiced colour of the skin, arising from the bile not getting readily into the common duct, on account of the pressure of the inflamed liver on the *pori bilarii* ; while the continuance of inflammation



induces, as a necessary consequence, adhesions of the organ to the contiguous parts or considerable enlargement of particular portions of it takes place, such as the lobes, where suppuration ensues, or sometimes scirrhusity is the result.

But in every inflammation of the liver, it may be observed, that the symptoms are more or less acute according to the degree of sensibility in the part affected; When the membranous covering of its superior convex part, or the ligaments which unite it to the diaphragm are inflamed; the pain, fever, and difficulty of breathing, are much more violent, than when its interior, pulpy substance, or its concave, inferior part, is affected; which being less nervous are less susceptible of the morbid cause.

Where the inflammation acts with extreme violence, the increased secretion of bile, is sometimes thrown into the first passages, occasioning considerable derangement in the state of the evacuations.

In most cases, the secretion of bile is increased, though its passage into the duodenum is frequently impeded, so that jaundice is no uncommon circumstance in this disease.

In most instances, the increase of the body or

parenchymatous substance of the liver, in consequence of inflammation, produces, I have observed, a corresponding change on its investing membranes, which are influenced by the general distension, and the symptoms therefore peculiar to membranous inflammation, I have frequently found, exactly resembling those which are present, when the liver is sensibly enlarged from inflammation.

In laying down the treatment of any disease, general principles alone can be communicated ; in every case certain variations occur, which require judgment, experience, and observation in their application ; an exact line of proceeding, cannot therefore be founded, suited to each constitution and habit ; hence the discretion of every practitioner must have much to work on.

In the treatment of acute hepatitis, the general means of obviating inflammation are to be rigidly observed by strictly employing the antiphlogistic regimen. The most early recourse should be had, to depletion from the part, by cupping over the region of the liver ; this operation should be repeated in ten hours, should the increased vascular action continue unabated, for no time is to be lost in



checking the progress of this violent acute stage of the disease. Where cupping is objected to by the patient, leeches may be employed, encouraging the bleeding for some time; and, should no material relief be then obtained, general bleeding should be resorted to, to the extent of twelve or sixteen ounces drawn from a large orifice, to suspend the morbid increase of circulation, by inducing fainting or deliquium if possible.

Should the inflammation spread itself likewise over the peritoneum, and invest the whole of this abdominal membrane; bleeding must not be lost sight of, but must be repeated again and again at no distant intervals, if the disease is not disposed to yield. The modern practice, of large and extensive bleeding, has been found by the most eminent practitioners of late, to be the only successful mode of treatment in this, as in other active inflammations, and it has been observed that small bleedings only suspend for a short period the increased action, without effecting that permanent check which is necessary for overcoming the disease. With these more active measures, should be joined the free use of cooling saline drinks, impregnated with acids;

the admission freely of cool air into the apartment, and the use of a low vegetable diet, consisting of gruels, tapioca, and other mild farinaceous matters in a thin form; and we cannot omit impressing it, as an important truth, that in this, as well as in other acute diseases at the commencement, a farinaceous or gruel diet should be strictly enjoined, and on no account whatever should animal food be permitted either in broths or otherwise, from its strong inclination in this state of the system to induce a putrescent disposition, and thus aggravate the already septic tendency of the principal secreted fluids. After full bleedings, general and topical, without alleviation of symptoms, a large blister should be applied over the affected part; most particular attention must be paid to the bowels, and every discharge from them most carefully and accurately surveyed, as it will furnish to the vigilant practitioner information of the highest importance, and will convey to him the unerring intelligence of truth, as it regards the character of the secretions. Without this examination he will be labouring in the dark on matters of the most essential interest to the welfare and security of his



patient. This attention is ever required in all acute hepatic cases. Cooling cathartics should be early and freely employed, and every means exerted to relieve the general distension of the liver, by emulging it of its accumulated bile, which is a matter of the utmost consequence, and should ever be kept in view by the practitioner; this point will be successfully obtained in most cases by the following forms of prescription:

℞ Potass: Sulph: ʒi.

Ext: Colocynth: Comp: gr. xvij.

Hyd: Submuriat: gr. x.

Ol: Carui g<sup>tt</sup> i. fiat

massa in pilulas viij æquales distribuenda, quarum capiat duas secunda quaque hora, donec alvus probe respondeat, superbibendo cochlearia tria magna hujus misturæ.

℞ Infus: Sennæ ʒivss.

Tinct: Sennæ ʒss.

Magn: Sulph: ʒvij.

Syr: Rosæ ʒiij.

Aq: Piment: ʒi fiat,

Mistura.

When these active measures have preceded,

milder means may then be adopted, to continue the secretions of the bowels and skin, and the formula I have generally preferred for this purpose, is as follows :

℞ Pulv: Tragacanth: Comp:

Potass: Nitr: āā ʒij.

Pulv: Ipec: gr. ij.

Hydrar: Submur: gr. iv. m: divid: in  
chart: vi. sum<sup>r</sup>: i. 4<sup>a</sup>: quaq: hora in gelat: rubr: aut  
mellis.

℞ Magnes: Sulph: ʒij.

Liq. Ammon: Acet: ʒi.

Syrup: Rosæ ʒv.

Aq: Distil: ʒvi. m: ft: mist:

Coch: magn: ij. una hora post: sing: pulv: cap:

This practice I continue to pursue with such variations as the circumstances and the progress of the cure requires, but the cooling plan should be persisted in for a week, or until the inflammatory action is wholly subdued, and it is decidedly correct that the sulphate of magnesia (or some such like principle) should be continued, in small doses three times a day, as in the arranged combination below, with the following addition at night :



℞ Sodæ Carbon: gr. x.

Ammon: Carb: gr. iij.

Mag: Sulph: ℥iss.

Pulv: Trag: Comp: ℥i.

Tinct: Cardam; Comp. ℥i.

Aq: Distil: ℥iss. fiat

Haustus ter in die capiendus.

℞ Pulv: Ipecac:

———— Aromat:

Hydrar: Submuriat: āā gr. i. ft: pil: h: s:

Sumend:

In those cases, where considerable irritability is present, after having actively employed the measures of overcoming inflammation, I have found a sedative joined with the Magn: Sulph: particularly serviceable, such as the undermentioned :

℞ Pulv: Ipecac: Comp: gr. iiss.

Magn: Sulph: ℥ij.

Lact: Amygd: ℥ij. ft: haust:

4<sup>ta</sup>: quaq: hor: sumendus.

An adherence to this plan for three weeks, will generally secure the recovery, making such alterations in the diet, &c. as the improvement of the con-

stitution, and the state of the digestive organs will admit of.

Such is the most successful method I can recommend for the treatment of acute hepatitis; a treatment drawn from ample experience, and an early attention to the various diseases of the liver in those climates where they are most prevalent and critical. To this subject I was professionally called at an early period of life, and have since devoted upwards of twenty years to its investigation.



## AFFECTIONS OF THE LIVER.

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### II. CHRONIC HEPATITIS.

THIS form of the disease is, by far, the most frequent in Great Britain; it is often, when it appears in the tropical countries, a consequence of the acute species improperly treated, or too far advanced in its progress, before the aid of medicine is administered.

Whether from the increased tone of the animal fibre in temperate and cold climates, compared with that in hot climates, from the inordinate action of the liver as a secreting organ in these last, or from both these causes combined, there can be no doubt that in this country hepatitis partakes much more of the nature of simple inflammation than the same disease does in India, and consequently the simply antiphlogistic mode of treatment, from this circumstance, will be oftener successful in the former than in the latter variety of disease.

The hepatitis of Europe, or this species, is

always slow in its progressive stages ; the organ of attack will be, for years, suffering under its influence, and yet no external marks, or strong aggravation of symptoms, pointing out real disease, will indicate to the patient, the alarming state under which he is labouring; any transient symptoms of indisposition that arise, he imputes to a different and mistaken cause, never suspecting that the liver being affected, is the latent source of these occasional disturbed sensations which he experiences ; thus misled, it is not in his power to take the necessary precautions, and to guard against this insidious enemy to his repose.

So general indeed, is the prevalence of liver complaints, that I am fully satisfied, that this organ is the chief seat of most of those disorders *unattended by febrile action* ; and I venture to affirm, that the grand source of health and disease, is connected with the natural or diseased condition of the liver ; and that every chronic or lingering illness, arises in a considerable degree from some defect there. In many acute disorders it has also its share : but in every kind of sickness, whether local or general, that is peculiar to this country, it



is material to examine it, for perfect health can never be maintained without a strict regard to the state of this essential organ. The symptoms of chronic hepatitis, often felt for a considerable time, are so slight, as to be nothing more than a sense of fulness after meals, with a disposition to drowsiness, occasionally accompanied with flatulence, and sometimes a sensation of fluttering at the pit of the stomach, and at other times, on the most trifling exertion, the patient feels considerable lassitude and languor, followed by a tendency to sleep; this sleep, however, is seldom refreshing, but interrupted by distressing dreams; slight pain is occasionally felt on either side, but it chiefly fixes itself on the left side; to this may be added, that when in bed, the patient can only lie tolerably comfortable, by confining himself to one side.

The mind often feels ill at ease, is fretful and irritable, from the slightest causes; the stomach sympathizes in this state, and feels occasionally so disturbed, as to deceive the patient in the supposition, that his complaints arise from an affection of this organ, while the latter acts only the part of a sympathizing friend, affected by its vici-

nity to the seat of the real malady ; the pulse is here seldom accelerated, but is more generally found depressed ; yet, in some cases of this disease, I have known the pulse to intermit considerably either in consequence of the blood through the hepatic artery being obstructed by the enlarged and hardened state of the organ ; by an accumulation of it in the branches of the vena portarum ; or by bile in the hepatic duct ; a dry skin, with much accumulation of heat, is often a leading feature, lowness and dejection of mind, are also usual attendants, and trifles, light as air, seem interesting and burdensome to the unhappy sufferer ; the bowels never perform their operation, in a proportion equal to the quantity of aliment taken.

The appetite, however, suffers here commonly no diminution, on the contrary, it is not unfrequently increased in a sensible degree, yet in other instances the appetite is diminished, as in those cases, generally where the system materially suffers ; the patient loses that relish for society, which is a concomitant of health ; and feels often highly nervous, secluding himself, and ruminating, as it were, over his feelings, which betray a general discomfort



both of mind and body ; anxiety and languor are expressed in the countenance, which is frequently pale or sallow, often a peculiar dulness in the eyes is observable, occasionally attended in the morning with such a heavy sensation, that it requires some exertion to open them, and the lids even feel as if there were pressure on them to keep them shut. There is no peculiar thirst beyond natural, yet the tongue will be found furred, more particularly at its base. In this state of the disease, sleep is often disturbed, with frightful dreams, and alarming imaginations, or if the patient sleeps soundly, he awakes unrefreshed, with lassitude, listlessness, and sometimes a sensation, as if he were incapable of moving ; slight noises generally cause him to start ; in some cases there is an obtuse pain of the right side and shoulder, with a fulness in the side and about the pit of the stomach, keeping up constant uneasiness ; at other times there is felt a dull heavy weight of the shoulders, as if confined by a bandage, preventing their free action, and occasioning a distressing feeling in walking ; there are often also felt severe cramps or spasms, and nervous twitchings of the muscles and tendinous parts, and like-

wise aching pains of the limbs; where the complaint has continued some time, an emaciation of the face is conspicuous, and in some instances, likewise of the body, and the general aspect of the patient, is extremely unhealthy; in many cases there may also be perceived an œdema or puffiness of the extremities, more particularly at the instep and round the ankle; the excretions of the bowels exhibit unnatural colour and fœtor, are adhesive, of a dark, muddy, and often of a clayey appearance, and are generally voided with difficulty, much straining and discharge of flatus, being usually deficient in quantity; but all these symptoms are generally so moderate, as to be little noticed by the patient himself: Even hepatic abscesses have been discovered on dissection, which had given no inconvenience during life, nor were even suspected to exist, though such abscesses must have been the consequence of previous inflammation.

Nay, it is probable, that even the pancreas and other appendages of the digestive organs, not only sympathize with this morbid condition of these primary parts, but are also themselves in some mea-



sure affected, although the degree of derangement is not so easily to be ascertained.

These various symptoms offer a true picture of chronic hepatitis, but they do not all occur in the same individual at a time, but shew themselves in different persons, with much variety, both in extent, number, and degree, as the disorder exists in every gradation. Now and then, though rarely, cases do shew themselves, which are peculiarly stubborn and unyielding for a length of time: A case of this obstinate character presented itself two years since, on which my much esteemed friend Mr. Underwood, late surgeon on the Madras Establishment, and myself were in consultation together. It occurred in a gentleman about thirty years of age, son to an East India Director.

On these symptoms, and the existence of the disease, it is well observed by the late Dr. Paisley, "that no doubt can arise with an experienced practitioner; if we have not pain to direct us, an experienced touch will discover the obstruction, the tenderness and enlargement of the liver," "I say," he adds, "*an experienced touch*, because it requires a frequent practical examination to satisfy one, re-

pecting the different degrees of hardness, firmness, and sensibility, that constitute a disease in that bowel ; however, appearances are seldom so equivocal, as to mislead the observant practitioner." In directing this experienced touch, it may be observed, that whenever the diaphragm descends, the liver is carried downwards ; and it moves in the contrary direction again, when this muscle passes towards the chest ; in the latter state, the thin edge of the liver is completely covered by the margin of chest ; hence, when we wish to press on the liver, we direct the patient to inspire strongly, so that its edge may be thrust below the ribs.

The vast number of cases, which have fallen under my care in many parts of India, render me so familiar with this disease in every form, from its most acute state, to its mildest and most deceptive appearance, that I have seldom found any difficulty in tracing its attack, and detecting the true source of the disorder. On the Malabar coast, the disease shews itself in both the acute and chronic state. I made a report of a considerable number of cases there treated, to the late Dr. Hunter, who was pleased, in a public manner, to express, in very



handsome terms, his approbation of the successful plan I pursued in conducting the cure.

On the Coromandel coast, I had the same formidable malady to encounter, the termination of which was, in most instances, equally fortunate. When at Mocha, off the Red Sea, so severe was the attack of this disease on those under my care, that it became requisite to establish an hospital there, for their treatment, and although the range of the thermometer was from 85 to 100, a most unfavourable circumstance for the advancement of the cure, yet the success I experienced, far exceeded my most sanguine expectations, in the treatment of such an active disease.

In China, I had an opportunity of observing the liver, secreting its bile, in the most vitiated and depraved state; cholera morbus, and dysenteries, were the chief diseases under my care in this country, and I never witnessed such alarming effects, as the morbid secretion of the biliary system brought on in this situation; the fluid, from its hurried secretion, was not only redundant, but rendered highly acrimonious by the stimulus of heat; and thus, by re-acting on the organ producing it, I

have found a disorder excited there in several instances.

A sensitive association, indeed, so intimately connects all the abdominal viscera, as to render their motions dependent on each other, and thus unites also the due performance of the functions peculiar to each, in the same intimate chain; hence, the disturbance of the action of the one, necessarily produces a corresponding condition in the action of the others; this is remarkably instanced in the case of the liver, which, as a secreting organ, derives its circulating blood from the stomach, intestines, pancreas and spleen.

Thus the situation and importance of the liver, occasion every abdominal organ to sympathize with its feelings, and to partake in its state, and thus on the same grounds, every abdominal organ influences the condition of the liver, and their derangements may be considered as a cause of hepatic disease: Hence, it is of consequence to ascertain whether the anguish of the liver is a primary affection, or a secondary one from a more distant abdominal irritation; this requires experience and discrimination

on the part of the practitioner, and can only be clearly comprehended by often tracing the subject of bilious diseases in their numerous states and complicated varieties.

From such an experience then, I am induced to make this strong and feeling conclusion, that such is the vast importance of the hepatic functions in the animal economy, and their extensive influence in the general regulation of health, that the least disorder or derangement of its circulation, producing an alteration in its secretion, excites morbid symptoms in every part of the body ; that it holds an extensive sympathy with every organ, and what was formerly assigned as peculiarly belonging to the stomach, is more properly to be referred to this viscus, which may be considered as the real physical elaboratory of the whole system.

In order to understand the proper treatment of chronic hepatitis, it will be necessary to consider the various modifications under which the disease appears, so apt to mislead practitioners in this country, who have had little opportunity of tracing it in its several stages and complicated varieties, in



which it shews itself under the influence of a vertical sun. One of the forms in which it appears in this country, is that of

# I. HYDROCEPHALUS INTERNUS; or, WATER IN THE HEAD.

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THIS often fatal and alarming malady, it has now been proved by modern practitioners, and particularly by the testimony of Dr. Cheyne, in his *Treatise on the Diseases of Children*, to be a certain consequence of a previous hepatic affection, and the early attention to the state of this primarily affected organ, is the only certain means of accomplishing a cure. I have had many cases, but particularly one of late, which strongly confirms this fact, and from its interesting nature, it will be found detailed in the collection of cases subjoined to the work. The evidence adduced in the well-known case of Sir Joshua Reynolds, is very striking; and the generally enlarged appearance of the organ in children who have died of this disease, strengthens the opinion: The only instances also, of recovery from

the disease, have been consequent on the use of that remedy which is acknowledged to be so specific in liver disorders, and which acts more powerfully by emulging this organ, than by its operation on any other part of the system.

## II. COUGH, ASTHMA, &c.

BUT besides this disease of the head, which has so long foiled the researches of physicians in investigating its true cause, a diseased state of the liver is not less liable to affect the adjacent organs, the lungs, and to induce such a derangement in their functions, at one time from mere sympathy, at another time from pressure, as to occasion those forms of disease, which simulate chronic catarrh, asthma, and even pulmonary consumption itself: The symptoms in fact are the same, only as the cause exists, not so much in the apparent seat of the malady, as in a distant organ, so the means of cure must be applied radically, to influence the state of the former, and restore it to health, before any

relief can be expected to the pectoral, and seemingly, the only morbid condition that exists to injure the patient. On medicine being employed, so as to change the morbid state of the liver, the irritation of the lungs will immediately give way, and the disorder will be found in most instances to take a favourable turn.

The truth of this I cannot illustrate better than by the narration here of a particular case, in which I was consulted, in the year 1809, with that experienced practitioner, Dr. Dick, physician to the Honourable East India Company, for the home department : The patient, in this case, had complained for upwards of twelve months, of difficulty of breathing, and such impeded short respiration, as greatly distressed him, accompanied with severe cough, completely resembling asthma ; this, indeed, was the opinion of several of the most eminent physicians of the metropolis, whom he had consulted for his complaint, during the period of their attendance.

On a careful examination by Dr. Dick and myself, there could be no doubt of its being a confirmed hepatic disease, as an evident enlargement



of the margin of the liver had taken place to some extent, this occasioned pressure to be made on the diaphragm, thus contracting or lessening the space in the cavity of the chest: Hence, the pulmonary affection was merely symptomatic, and the origin of the evil, was to be traced to a different source: The cough induced here, may indeed be termed a cough of necessity, arising from the diaphragm being thrown upwards against the lungs by the tumid liver, this of course occasioned irritation of the air vessels of the lungs, and, as a consequence, also, some inflammation, from which arose an increased secretion of mucus, and the cough in this instance, was merely an effort of nature to pump up, or rid herself of the loaded deposit.

This circumstance shews the nice discrimination that should always be made in pectoral cases, or wherever cough is the leading symptom; examination should regularly take place of the hypochondriac region, before attempting the treatment, as this would then lead us to discover the source of many disturbances of the general health, which arise in the hepatic organs, and would also direct us to the prevention of many secondary diseases, of

a more vexatious, and sometimes of a more dangerous and fatal nature, than those from which they originated.

This opinion is so strongly and so properly enforced by the late Dr. Paisley, in a letter to his friend, that I cannot omit quoting it here, “ I cannot,” says he, “ avoid putting you upon your  
 “ guard against a disorder of the liver, which I  
 “ have seen in Europe, and several times in India,  
 “ attended with fatal consequences from its being  
 “ overlooked; the disorder I mean, is what may  
 “ be called a liver cough, the obstruction in this  
 “ case, is pretty generally accompanied by some  
 “ degree of inflammation and pain, though seldom  
 “ acute, unless pressed with the fingers, or when  
 “ the external membrane is also affected, but it  
 “ often happens without pain or inflammation;  
 “ the cough (the only symptomatic complaint,)  
 “ is the misleading symptom of the disease; the  
 “ patient pronounces his own disorder a cold,  
 “ and it often happens without further enquiry,  
 “ that he is put on a course of ineffectual pectorals, takes exercise, and shifts his situation for  
 “ health, until his liver either suppurates, or be-

“ comes an indolent mass of irrecoverable obstruc-  
 “ tion ; in very irritable or inflammatory habits,  
 “ any mistake on the commencement of the disease  
 “ is of the most serious consequence ; the liver,  
 “ diaphragm, and lungs, adhere and suppurate, a  
 “ purulent spitting succeeds, and instead of a pure  
 “ uniform pus, the substance of the liver is ex-  
 “ pectorated by a deep hollow cough, in the form  
 “ of a glandular membranous appearance mixed  
 “ with purplish dissolved blood of a parenchyma-  
 “ tous look ; the disorder, like all other inflamma-  
 “ tory disorders of the liver, is very tractable in  
 “ the beginning, by the antiphlogistic and other  
 “ means.” “ It is to be observed,” he farther  
 adds, “ that in all confirmed disorders of the lungs  
 “ of any standing, the liver is always affected, but  
 “ in this disorder, the lungs are only the secondary  
 “ object, and never give any trouble if the ob-  
 “ struction of the liver is removed, as in them  
 “ there are neither tubercles, nor infractions.”

This connection between consumption and liver  
 complaints was strongly instanced to me in the case  
 of a lady residing in Southampton-Row, of an  
 extremely delicate constitution, the chief symptoms



here were violent pain of the side for a considerable time, with an apparently colliquative diarrhœa; from the issue of the case, however, it appeared an instance of highly diseased liver; by the treatment I employed, the discharge of the bowels was gradually lessened, and reduced to the natural consistence and appearance; her other symptoms abated in the same proportion, and by continuing two months under my care, her health was, to the great surprise of her friends, completely restored.

### III. MESENTERIC DISEASE.

A consequence of diseased liver is very often an affection of the mesenteric glands, which enlarge, and no longer perform their proper action of secretion; this is a proof that the mixture of healthy bile is necessary with the other fluids of the intestines, either to give that stimulus which is essential to the proper activity of the organs, or to separate from the fluids that part which is to be secreted in the mesenteric glands. A deficiency or vitiated

quality, therefore, of the bile, disables these glands from performing their due offices, thereby super-inducing disease, and that of the most serious and alarming nature.

I cannot here avoid relating a most singular case of the kind which, some years ago, fell under my observation; it was in a lady of a delicate and weakly habit, where, evidently, the whole chain of these glands were indurated and enlarged, and, in one particular part of the abdomen, a cluster of them had enlarged to such an astonishing size, as to equal two eggs; this tumour was irregular in its shape, and extremely sensible and painful, on making any considerable pressure on the part, so deep was its seat, as to seem, as it were, connected with the very spine.

On this complaint I was consulted with Dr. James Curry, of Guy's Hospital, and her own apothecary, a most judicious and well informed practitioner; in consequence of the treatment, her health became, first, much improved, and, on my being called in, a second time to visit her in the country, I had the pleasing satisfaction, by the directions then given, and the remedies employed

in the course of ten weeks attendance, to reduce the local disease, and to restore her general health.

Many cases, somewhat resembling the above, might be adduced, shewing the necessity, which ought to be strictly paid to the regular state of the intestines, to prevent accumulation, as aggravating every liver disorder : When we reflect on the quantity of food that is necessarily taken from time to time into the stomach, its improper stay in the bowels cannot fail of being highly productive of disease ; where the function of the liver is deficient, and its secretion so sparing in quantity, as not to give the due action to the intestines for its expulsion, or where, even though not in a smaller quantity, it is prevented by obstruction (either through spasm of the duct, a collection of viscid mucus, inspissated bile, or gall-stones) from passing through its legitimate canal and mixing with the food in its progress through the intestinal passage, the necessary peristaltic motion becomes then suspended, or incomplete for its natural purpose of clearing the canal ; the bowels themselves are thrown into irregular and perturbed action en-



deavouring to supply this defect; and thus the foundation of disease is laid through their whole track, the evacuations that take place are effected with difficulty and pain; and enlargement of vessels, ending in hæmorrhoids or piles, is another concomitant of this state.

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#### IV. STOMACH COMPLAINTS.

AN irregular or depraved biliary secretion is, certainly, the grand source of stomach complaints; the secretions of this organ are materially affected by any morbid state of the liver, and its sympathy with this latter organ induces, of course, a disorder of the functions of the stomach, and a vitiated quality of its natural fluid; hence, we often find a predominant acid, the effect of disease, a leading symptom in disorders of the stomach, and the organ is kept, as it were, in a constant state of fermentation; digestion, accordingly, becomes feeble and imperfect, the matters are poured into the bowels, not in their proper assimilated state, the bowels themselves want their proper supply of healthy bile, and there is no mediating power, or

neutralizing agent, such as the bile imparts, to correct the irritation from this cause ; hence arise indigestion, eructation, flatulence, and all the other morbid symptoms, which prove so distressing to dyspeptic patients.

In these complaints, the left portion of the liver, pressing upwards, is annoyed by the right portion of the stomach coming against it, which induces irritation, and uneasy sensations to be experienced in the hepatic region, and which are improperly imputed to the stomach ; their primary origin being in the liver, and the stomach only the instrument that mechanically excites them.

In this opinion I am strongly confirmed by the following sentiments of Dr. Saunders in his work on the Liver :—“ From repeated observations,” he remarks, “ I am induced to believe, that the  
 “ chronic inflammation of the liver is frequently  
 “ mistaken for a dyspeptic state of the stomach.  
 “ I have seen many cases of this kind, which have  
 “ been supposed to arise from indigestion ; the  
 “ patient generally complains of pain, which he  
 “ falsely attributes to the stomach ; and its conti-  
 “ nuance is so short, and the degree of its fre

“ quency so inconsiderable, that no alarm respect-  
 “ ing the future health of the patient is produced.  
 “ The relief obtained by eructation and discharge  
 “ of air, tends to confirm the opinion that the seat  
 “ of the disease is in the stomach ; but this relief  
 “ may be explained on the principle of removing  
 “ the distension of the stomach, and so taking off  
 “ the pressure of this organ from that which we  
 “ know is the seat of the complaint.”

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## V. HEAD-ACHS.

THERE is a very painful species of head-ach,  
 which sometimes renders life almost a burden, and  
 is often attended with considerable giddiness, that  
 owes its attack to a bilious origin. The sym-  
 thies of other organs with the liver, we have seen,  
 are very numerous and important, and render its  
 physiology very interesting to the physician. It is  
 indeed connected primarily or secondarily, as cause  
 or effect with various disorders of the head, as well  
 as of the other parts already noticed. In such



patients the stomach is not affected, the appetite continues as usual, or is even increased, but the bowels are always in a slow state from the deficient secretion or inertness of the bile, and as soon as accumulations occur, the attack of head-ach supervenes: As it comes on often periodically, and in fits, it thus differs essentially from those head-achs which arise from a fulness of vessels, or partial pressure on the brain.

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#### VI. LOWNESS OF SPIRITS AND DESPONDENCY OF MIND.

THAT hysteria or nervous disorders, as well as hypochondriasis, or the symptoms of a disordered imagination, are often produced by liver complaints, cannot be denied, and a vitiated secretion or black bile, is proverbially stated, as one cause of melancholy; this evidently shews the powerful influence of the liver, on the nervous system, and the sympathy produced between the action of the body and the mind: To such a length have the deranged feelings, from this cause, often been

carried, that suicide has been the consequence, as on the most minute examination of its causes, no other could be traced, than a fault in the biliary secretions, arising from a disordered liver : We cannot trace how easily that fine matter may be wrought upon, which constitutes the medium between the body, and the thinking part ; and when, on dissection, nothing but a diseased liver has appeared, we must evidently refer it to this source.

Hence, it is probable, that our reasoning is highly erroneous, when we attempt to confine the use of the bile to any single operation, as, from its nature, it seems so well qualified to answer a variety of useful and complicated purposes in the animal economy ; and from remarks already made in the preceding parts of this work, it must be allowed that the liver is an organ of great importance in the human body, and is not only liable to derangements which are indicated by the presence of appropriate symptoms ; but very often distant organs are affected, when the source of the complaint is in the liver itself, which shews its general influence, as whatever harrasses the mind or depresses the spirits, never fails to aggravate it.

## VII. CHRONIC DEBILITY OR WEAKNESS.

It is not an unfrequent occurrence, that cases of general debility arise, which resist the most powerful tonic, and restorative remedies ; wherever this happens, a latent hepatic obstruction is generally the foundation of the malady, and its mode of acting may be easily explained ; the absorbents, from a want of the proper stimulus, the bile, are incapable of operating with sufficient energy, to prepare chyle in the quantity necessary to nourish the body, and perhaps, also, what they produce is of an inferior quality ; in this case, though the appetite may be increased, and even the aliment taken into the stomach, still it lies a useless load, until the liver is roused, and is enabled to perform its functions, by secreting its fluid, and imparting it in sufficient quantity and quality, to answer all the purposes for which it is, by nature, intended ; no traces of chyle are discoverable in the chyme, until after its intermixture with the bile, and therefore it requires this fluid, to enable the vessels to take up



that nutritious part, capable of renovating the impaired powers of the constitution.

It was remarked, very early, by Lord Bacon, and with much truth, “ that the bile is the incentive, “ and stimulus of many functions of the human “ body,” and he considers that “ its healthy state “ entirely depends on the quantity and quality of “ this fluid.”

Thus we may remark, that muscular action, and nervous energy, depend very materially on the due degree of tone and vigour in the stomach and bowels, and whatever interrupts their functions, produces great prostration of strength and dejection of spirits : The debility thus induced is to be cured not by administering what are usually termed strengthening remedies, but by first taking off the cause of the malady, as situated in the improper action of the liver.

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#### VIII. OF FLATULENCE.

WHEREVER flatus, or wind, is generated in copious quantities in the stomach and bowels, and

where, from its abundant presence, it produces considerable distension, and general uneasiness from the extensive pressure which such gas sometimes occasions in these parts, oftentimes, as it were, stretching the whole fibres of the body; it may be considered as a constant attendant of a disordered liver; indeed such accumulations of air cannot take place, but in those constitutions where the biliary and gastric fluids are secreted in the most imperfect and altered condition.

Flatulence is too often regarded as the mere mark of a nervous disorder, and therefore overlooked; but, on the contrary, wherever it occurs it should always be considered not only as indicating a faulty state of these important fluids, on which the continuation of life and health depends, but likewise as producing in the organs it affects, such a state of irritation and pressure as occasions its morbid sympathy to be extended to the primary parts, connected with the very principle of existence.

Therefore, whenever flatulence proceeds from this cause, the re-establishment of these important secretions, which are in a morbid condition, must

be the primary object, the secretion of the biliary and gastric fluids, in this case, is evidently of a critical nature, and flatulence, though often viewed as a trivial symptom, is, at least, a proof of the influence of their morbid state in the stomach and bowels. At times, indeed, so far from being trivial, it constitutes a symptom of great and urgent distress, requiring immediate alleviation; and I have known persons so troubled with it, that it has continued for hours, with almost a constant fit of belching and noise in the bowels so as to render them almost ashamed to go into society; thus flatulence, from the above causes is particularly apt to affect females at a certain stage of life, when the secretions in general become irregular, and that of the liver particularly so, for, from the complex nature of the organ, it seldom escapes suffering as well as those organs which undergo their stated changes at this determined period.



## IX. REMARKS ON THE BILIARY SECRETION.

It is impossible to convey in words the great varieties, the strange changes and alterations which are often displayed in the character and appearances of this secretion; however, I shall attempt to describe such leading circumstances as arise, and are most frequently observed; thoroughly to appreciate and to draw practical deductions from the valuable information they convey, can only be the result of experience derived from assiduous and vigilant application to the subject.

In many hepatic obstructions, the functions of the liver remain so torpid and inactive, as to resist, for a length of time, the influence of remedies, and when roused from its indolence, it often happens, that the first efforts it makes, are shewn by a discharge of a liquid dark bile resembling coffee-grounds diluted, and occasionally a fluid of a still darker colour not unlike the appearance of ebony or jet; this is generally a full and satisfactory evidence of the organ's acquiring energy, or endeavouring, as it were, to empty itself of its improper collection,

which should at all times be viewed as a most favourable omen ; it sometimes will go on making similar discharges for a short time, and then after this complete disgorgement of its long collected and vitiated fluid, it places the liver in that condition of secreting bile of a more healthy quality. We most usually observe the amendment of our invalid keep pace with the improved condition of this secretion ; for, I have almost invariably found, in affections of the liver of long standing, that where this discharge was kept up for several days, the patient gradually recovered, and generally obtained that state of health, to which he had long before been a stranger.

I very often, in the course of my experience, have had occasion to remark, that the biliary secretion has for some days shewn itself extremely vitiated, and then for many days after, none whatever could be discovered ; in these cases, we should not rest satisfied until the liver is acted on, in such a way as to shew some steadiness of principle ; at other times I have observed, the contents of the bowels will often, in their appearance, resemble mud, or a matter of that well-known darkish

colour, and wherever I have seen this state of discharge continued for some time, the case generally has assumed a stubbornness of character, and has required the excitement of considerable energy, in order to rouse the lethargic liver to its functions.

Under such circumstances, it has generally been a symptom of direct benefit, when my patient has complained of some glowing, or diffused heat in the region of the bowels attended with a nipping and griping effect, which symptom recurring two or three times a day, leads me to augur favorably of such an occurrence, as it convinces me that bile in no very sparing quantity, is emptied into the intestines, and I have scarcely ever been deceived, in finding the secretions at such seasons, amply provided with this fluid: should this diffused heat and griping, continue for a week at intervals, it has uniformly afforded me firm grounds, for a favorable prognostic, as to the speedy issue and recovery of the patient.

But, in other instances, the matter from the bowels will display all manner of character as to colour, consistence, adhesiveness, and the like, sometimes resembling clay, pitch, yeast, often a



dirty green, and many varied shades of colour ; such properties constantly indicate a faulty biliary secretion, and until the liver is (if I may be excused the expression) spurred to its proper function, the condition of things remains the same, but the moment any perceptible effort is made by it, a beneficial change takes place, and our great anxiety is, to keep alive its interest, by which means, we shall speedily be gratified with the secretion of healthy bile ; but seldom or ever does this effect take place, without the previous warning symptoms of occasional heats, and gripings over the bowels ; and when we discover this correct bile, we should proceed with delicate caution, not to annoy the organ too much, as now we must, in a manner, rest on our oars, having gained our desired object, for an excess of stimulus would defeat our endeavours.

In all disorders of the liver of any standing, where this viscus has long been sluggish and inactive, it may be considered as a certain fact, that when roused into intense action, the first secretions it throws out, are always in an ill conditioned state.

Where the bile passes of a bright yellow appearance, resembling the yolk of an egg, it is to be regarded as belonging to its healthiest condition.

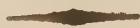
When bile passes the intestines in any quantity, in those constitutions which have been deprived of it for any length of time, (I mean in those instances where the quantity previously has been so scanty, as by no means to give the bowels that due physical assistance required ;) I have invariably found it to occasion considerable burning heat at the rectum, like the sensation caused by some scalding fluid, which generally lasts some minutes, and previous to the discharge, those gripings and glowing heats over the bowels already noticed, usually take place as the forerunners of it ; a strong proof of its acrid nature from long retention.

In observing also what passes by the motions, I have often perceived great quantities of solid matter resembling coal dust at the bottom of the vessel, and wherever this has continued to pass, I have generally found the case obstinate and unyielding for a length of time: On examining this matter carefully, it has proved to be inspissated bile, such as the ducts are apt to be clogged with in those constitutions,

where the secretion has been sluggish and imperfectly performed.

I could wish to expatiate further on this subject, but words cannot correctly convey that practical information which I am desirous to communicate; this must be the result of individual experience alone.

I am well aware that the liver is occasionally subjected to great difficulties, such as having its ducts obstructed by glutinous or inspissated bile, gall-stones, viscid mucus, tumors, or contractions; yet, I am firmly convinced, the constitution more frequently suffers from a torpid, inactive, and indolent condition, than from the reverse, where its action is in excess, and its functions carried on too rapidly.



#### X. REMARKS ON THE GASTRIC FLUID.

It has been considered, that the presence of bile in the stomach is the source of the derangement of this organ, though, from anatomy, it is clear, that this fluid never passes into the stomach without such violent exertion of this organ, as takes place in the act of vomiting, or where the biliary secre-



tion is prevented from getting into the intestines by its natural passage.

In bilious disorders, or liver complaints, there can be no doubt that the fluids of the stomach discover a yellowish appearance, and have a bitterish taste, the consequence of a vitiated, and altered property; but it is clear that this state can be produced by sympathy alone, and the liver, in a morbid condition, or under disease, is as capable of exciting it as the uterus, an organ still more distant, whose effect on the state of the stomach in early pregnancy, is well known and admitted.

In fact, such is the nature of the stomach, that it may be considered as the centre of all sympathy, and influenced by the derangement of every other organ of the body, as well as of the liver, without any necessity for having recourse to the supposition of bile being mixed with its contents, in order to their acquiring a faulty or unhealthy condition.

The interruption of digestion then, in all cases, occasions the solvent fluids of the stomach to be changed in their colour and nature, which changes, indicate that the acid produced from the fermentation of the food has not been neutralized, and incorporated into the new composition, or combina-

tions which take place, where the health of the organ is unimpaired ; the food in the stomach is never thoroughly digested, or converted into chyle ; it is here only a preparatory process, which is perfected in the duodenum, and this perfection of it, or real assimilation, cannot take place until it receives the admixture of the bile to animalize it.

The bile, in fact, is the most animalized fluid of the system, as it is formed from blood which has passed twice through the general circulation, without being renovated, or receiving that fresh principle from the air, which is essential to its vitality ; a portion, therefore, of this most perfect, or complete animal matter, is required to be mixed with the chyme, as it descends from the stomach into the duodenum, to give the real animal nature to the newly formed production, or chyle : Hence, where it is wanting from an obstruction of the liver, the body is deprived of its proper nourishment, and becomes emaciated, and the food received has not its useful parts separated as it ought.

The proofs, that bile does not enter the stomach naturally, may be drawn from the appearance of the contents of the stomach, which are, generally, of a yellow, and not of a green colour, when dis-

charged by vomiting, and next the presence of acid, which never can be the case along with bile, the latter proving the grand neutralizer of this principle: The effect of bile, on acids, in producing a deep green colour, is strongly instanced in the early bowel complaints of infancy, and the same effect it always shews in its mixture with acids out of the body, this appearance being never displayed in the real contents of the stomach when first discharged; for the presence of bile only takes place in the last efforts of vomiting, and, on being pumped up into the stomach, it becomes mixed with some remaining portion of acid, and thus imparts to it a green tinge which it would not otherwise possess; for green discharges never appear with the first matters thrown up. The presence of bile in *this* organ, except as in the manner already stated, is, therefore, a vulgar prejudice, resting on no solid foundation, and opposed by fact, analogy, and experiment.

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## XI. OF THE INTESTINES.

NEXT to the hepatic system itself, there is no part of the body, where the influence of the bile is felt so extensively as in the intestines or alimentary



canal. The intestines are composed of a muscular tube, of various diameters in different parts, forming two arches, the one large, loose, and floating in the abdomen; the other smaller, and connected by appendages, in a fixed state to the back, and sides of this cavity; their length is six times that of the body, and they are every where interspersed with vessels, and nerves, suited to their appropriate offices; they are possessed of two kinds of action, the one is termed their peristaltic motion, the other that active exertion which takes place on the evacuation of the fœces; the first is the means employed by nature, to perfect the process of converting the aliment into chyle, and to expose it afterwards to the mouths of the vessels, destined to receive it; this is a slow, gradual, and never ceasing operation; while the latter is violent, temporary, and coercive.

On the proper regulation, however, of these two operations, much of the health of the system depends. In many constitutions, the former is impeded by a morbid accumulation of mucus, which nature, originally, intended for the protection of the delicate surface of these parts, from the too great irritation, which the bile, and pancreatic juice, in mixing with the aliment, are, sometimes,

apt to produce; this accumulation of mucus, in case of disease, requires much attention on the part of practitioners; it impedes the action of remedies, it renders the bowels torpid, frequently locks up the secretion of the bile, and prevents it passing freely into the intestines; by this means, the aliment is deprived of the very principle from the bile, which should be conveyed to it, and the chyle is therefore deficient, we may infer, in certain essential properties.

In all cases, a separation of this mucus, from the intestines, is an object of importance which requires to be particularly attended to, as it differs from mucus in other situations, and often acquires a glairy gelatinous consistence, of the most viscid and tenacious kind: The difficulty of removing it can be known only to those, who have paid a proper attention to the subject, and repeated purgings, will hardly be sufficient, in many cases, to separate it from its attachments, particularly when pent up and confined to certain portions of the intestines, where the folds and windings favour its retention.

The action of the bowels to evacuate the fœces, is, however, their most coercive or violent operation,

and in many cases, where extraordinarily exerted, it has produced the most serious consequences in occasioning rupture, hæmorrhage, apoplexy, &c.; nature certainly intended that this operation should be done with ease and safety, and it is only in cases of disease, or from improper conduct on the part of the person himself, that it can be attended with danger, inconvenience, or pain; it is clear that the bile is formed by nature for rendering it an easy operation, that fluid being the grand saponaceous compound to mix with the refuse of the aliment, and by this mixture to give the proper stimulus to the intestines for its discharge: But this stimulus is insufficient, unless the hepatic and cystic bile be mixed to excite the necessary action of these parts; for by this saponaceous and soluble quality it possesses, it lessens the adhesive nature of the fœces, and by smoothing their surface, facilitates their evacuation, for in cases of its defective secretion, the fœces are hard, knotty, and irregularly formed. It may, however, be remarked, that this may be retarded, or a costive habit of the body may proceed from these various causes, viz. from a defect or obstruction of bile, or its not being sufficiently exalted to



stimulate the intestines, and quicken their expulsive motion.

A deficiency, or an excess of bile, therefore, will be equally injurious, and produce morbid effects connected with the discharge. The excess of bile in this climate, we have seen is not so frequent as its deficient state ; but where it does take place, and produces a powerful spasmodic action of the bowels, it often occasions a morbid change of structure of the most serious consequence ; from a deficiency of bile is induced, first, a slow action of the bowels, as well as an increase of acrid mucus ; accumulations of fœces next take place, in certain portions favourable to the retention of matter, particularly in the sigmoid flexure of the colon. The action of the bowels is occasionally exerted, but not with sufficient effect to get rid of the load they contain, and their muscular fibres are thus kept in a constant state of ineffectual exertion ; a thickening at particular parts take place, laying the foundation of stricture, a disease of a most alarming nature, and incurable, unless where the assistance of the surgeon can be administered.

The frequency of this disease, and of accumula-

tions in various parts of the intestines, is proved by dissections; that these arise from the deficient and unhealthy secretion of bile cannot be doubted, when we find this secretion, the means nature employs in a proper quantity for eliminating the canal; its importance, therefore, in the economy cannot be too strongly insisted on. The functions, indeed, of digestion, both in the stomach, and upper tract of the intestines, are very improperly performed, and the long continued irritation to which the bowels are subjected, comes at last to debilitate their tone and action, whereby they do not sufficiently propel their contents; and fresh accumulations and congestions are again and again formed, which, as they settle lower down, bring on a diseased state of the lower portion of the tract, particularly of the rectum, with topical affection of the gut.

In all hepatic cases, strong conclusions may be drawn from the alvine operations, and the manner in which they are discharged, their appearance and consistence; wherever they are brought off with much straining, when the matter is scanty in proportion to the food, when it is small and apparently figured, or much compressed, or curled round re-

sembling a cork-screw, when great ineffectual and painful exertion takes place with only a discharge of wind, and where the evacuation is frequently with a sputtering, or squirt, and the patient feels tight and banded about the body ; under all these circumstances, a diseased state of the intestine is to be suspected, and should be ascertained by a careful and minute examination, which the practitioner ought never to omit ; as there is no disease to which the human frame is incident, that is more liable to remain undetected.

This examination will most generally shew either a thickening of some part of the rectum, or an actual stricture formed in the passage, and it cannot be too much imprest on the mind of every practitioner, that the presence of the above symptoms affords always a certain indication of an altered structure, or morbid change in the passage. The earliest means of ascertaining this should never be neglected, as it is only by this early detection that effectual means can be employed to accomplish a cure ; indeed, until this state of the intestine is changed it will be impossible for the liver to perform regularly its functions, for though the



bile may be poured out and mixed with the feculent matter, the stricture of the intestine will cause it to be retained, and accumulations will continue, which the natural action of the bowels cannot overcome to render the discharge regular and free.

In the course of my practice when attending particularly to the discharges of the intestines, wherever for a length of time I have observed large collections of yellow heavy mucus to pass off in the shape of long continuous stringy matter (often-times resembling the inner coat of the intestine itself) attended occasionally with a rumbling noise as of air circulating through the bowels, the event has most generally satisfied me, that it marked a diseased state of some portion of the intestines.

In several cases, such has been the accumulation of indurated fœces in the bowels, that at a particular part of this canal they have been so completely aggregated into a mass so as to entirely wedge up and distend the intestine, thus forming into a kind of substance much resembling a solid tumour, both in its feel and in its sensible properties when pressed on. Such like apparent tumours

I have known to take place in different parts of the abdomen; this appearance has often deceived practitioners, and it is not to be wondered at, from its occasioning by its irritation on the surface of the intestine, considerable inflammation and pain, the same as any other active mechanical cause; such peculiar circumstances of disease, when once detected, require an active and energetic enforcement of medicine, and shew the necessity of nice and accurate discrimination, in order to form a correct judgment of the real nature of such appearances. Unless a practitioner is placed on his guard in this respect, he may often be misled by such phenomenon, viewing it as a tumor of a very different nature, nor is it less necessary when the obstruction is once removed, that a proper attention be kept up to prevent the recurrence, which can only be done by relaxing the biliary system, so that the sparing secretion of bile may be amended, and that harmony of function restored between these parts which is essential to the complete establishment of health.

## XII. ON GALL-STONES, BILIARY CONCRETIONS, AND JAUNDICE.

IN addition to those numerous disorders which have already been so fully detailed as attending a morbid secretion of the liver, it would be improper to omit mentioning that a faulty condition of the bile is likewise the cause of gall-stones and biliary concretions; these obstruct or plug up the biliary ducts, thus preventing the passage of the bile through this natural channel into the duodenum, and laying the foundation of jaundice, a disease at all times formidable and alarming. In this disease the secretion is thrown back upon the organ, and the absorbents are roused to increased action as an effort of nature, the system having no other alternative but through the medium of these vessels of unloading the impacted liver; thus circumstanced, the fluid necessarily first becomes diffused through the circulating stream, and then pervades the most minute secretions, giving a yellow tint,



and shewing its general influence over the whole body.

The complaint of gall-stones and biliary concretions requires the most prompt and active remedies to obviate the agonizing distress which often attends it. These sufferings may, it is true, be allayed, and the present fit or paroxysm got over by the passage of the stone or biliary concretion through the ducts, which are capable of dilatation to a certain extent for its expulsion; for although the diameter of the gall duct is naturally a little larger than that of a goose quill, such is its structure as to admit of dilatation and allow gall-stones to pass which are equal in size to a pigeon's egg, and sometimes much larger, of which many examples may be found in authors of undoubted veracity. Yet no firm or permanent state of health can be ensured until such appropriate means are employed as are capable of removing the morbid disposition of the bile, or its tendency to inspissation; for, unless a change be produced, the same attack will frequently recur, and the gall ducts, from the repeated irritation on their coats, become gradually contracted and altered, and at

last, from this continued disorder, be reduced to such a condition as to have their canal totally occluded.

In all cases where the secretion of the liver is of this sluggish and inspissated nature, the patient cannot be too solicitous in having an early recourse to the mode of treatment so strongly pointed out, and in assisting the operation of the remedies by a strict attention to diet, exercise, and all the other auxiliary means enjoined in the latter part of this work.

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### XIII. ON DROPSY.

THIS formidable disease, is too often the termination of liver complaints, when left to themselves, or incorrectly treated, for, from previous inflammation, it may have suffered in its structure in such a way as to produce a considerable impediment to the transmission of blood by the vena portarum : Where this symptom appears, it may be considered as indicating a general breaking up of the constitution, and tho' in no case is a patient to be given

up, it affords but a melancholy presage both to the practitioner, and to the invalid ; the latter, unfortunately, too often supposes this as his only complaint, and that, if he could once get rid of the accumulated fluid, then he would be well ; the practitioner, indulgent to his prejudice, evacuates the water, which affords but transient and temporary relief, when a few weeks shew the accumulation as great as ever, and the miserable patient becomes a victim of disappointment and chagrin ; to this may be added, that the weakness induced by the removal of the fluid, too often hurries on the fatal event sooner than it would otherwise have taken place.

Dropsy from a disordered liver commonly discovers itself first in the form of ascites, where the fluid occupies the cavity of the abdomen ; paucity of urine is here the leading symptom, as in other cases of dropsy, and the skin possesses also the same dry feel, and anserine appearance : The urine is not merely high coloured, but here it displays a real bilious tinge : It is not until the circulation of the liver becomes highly obstructed, that the effused fluid comes to accumulate ; so soon as the



pressure on the venous system is so great, that the absorbents can no longer carry on their office, of removing the fluid poured out in the usual proportion as in health, then it must be deposited in the surrounding cavity, and a collection gradually takes place ; this collection, when it arrives at a certain length, increases all the morbid symptoms which attend the original liver disease ; the affection of the stomach from the pressure of the fluid confining the situation of the organ, becomes aggravated ; the same takes place in regard to the lungs, and the dyspnœa, or difficulty of respiration, particularly in the recumbent posture, becomes alarming ; the sleep is highly disturbed with frightful dreams, and in the end, the fluid confined originally to the abdomen, is diffused also into the lower extremities, which acquire a prodigious size, and also ascends to the chest, producing hydrothorax.

Under these circumstances, the pulse becomes intermittent, and the action of the heart highly irregular ; the oppression, and sense of suffocation, reduce the patient to a most dreadful state, and every night is, for a length of time, expected by

the attendants to be his last ; life, however, even under this dreadful aggravation of disease, becomes often long protracted, until the unhappy sufferer is equally a burden to himself, and to his surrounding friends.

In directing the treatment here, the plan recommended for the cure of the liver complaint, (the origin and cause of these secondary symptoms) is never to be lost sight of, but with these means are to be used such others, as may remove the pressure of the accumulation, by exciting the action of the absorbents, and opening both the skin and kidneys to perform their proper functions, in a degree beyond the usual standard of health. The operation of tapping seldom affords permanent relief; in the early stages it is more likely to answer best, because then there is a chance that the parts may recover their tone ; but when the disease is so far advanced, that the parts are unable to regain their energy, it generally accelerates the termination, by removing that remaining firmness and elasticity, which they acquired even from the pressure and distension of the fluid, acting as a mechanical stimulus upon them ; the cure, therefore, is to be

trusted to an energetic use of the remedies calculated to remove the primary malady, for without this all other applications are in vain; the prejudice of Surgeons in favour of operating in such cases, is often to be highly reprobated as injurious to the patient, and adding no eclat to themselves.

Dropsy will never arise in liver complaints, where the treatment recommended is early and zealously adopted, and this should be one strong inducement for patients to pay an early attention to themselves. Here the precept particularly applies,

“*Principiis obsta sero medicina paratur, cum mala per longas convaluere moras.*”



## TREATMENT OF CHRONIC HEPATITIS.

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HAVING thus explained the principal forms of hepatic disorders, shewing the extensive influence of the liver in the production, aggravation, and fatality of disease, we now come to consider the principles to be laid down in the treatment, the most important part of the whole. Chronic hepatitis, we have stated to be the most frequent in this country, and proportionably as general as the acute in India ; it is slow in its progress, and deceptive in its appearance ; nay, it will continue for years without the patient being aware of its existence, or its discovering such characteristic signs as may induce even a practitioner, to suppose that the ailments of the invalid owe their origin to this source.

From this view, there can be no doubt that every one will, on reflection, consider the disorders of the liver to be of the first importance, and will perceive the propriety of assiduously enquiring into

their nature, in order that he may know them when they exist, and that the efforts to remedy them may be conducted on rational principles ; indeed, nature will in all cases do much to resist or obviate impressions that are hurtful provided she be correctly assisted in her efforts, and not frustrated by rashness and inexperience : a caution which cannot be too strongly inculcated in the treatment of all chronic cases.

The state of chronic hepatitis, is materially different from that which marks the acute. While in the latter, a copious and morbidly increased secretion of bile prevails, tinging the skin, and working its way into every vessel and pore, in chronic hepatitis the reverse of this takes place, the slow and weakened circulation of the organ lessens the secretion in the same proportion, and thus a deficiency of bile, by depriving the alimentary canal of its proper quantity of this necessary and natural stimulus, renders the constitution subject to a morbid influence, with equal power, as its redundancy in the former condition : This opinion, nearly new in practice, is confirmed by ample and conclusive experience, though contrary to the received notions of

many of this country, by whom it is supposed, that all hepatic disorders owe their origin to an excess, rather than to a deficiency, of this active excrementitious fluid.

In all hepatic complaints, in order to ensure a successful practice, the first point is to understand accurately the state of the disease, and this is only learnt by a skilful examination of the secretions that pass by the stomach, and intestines. This is a point which has seldom been attended to by practitioners, but is of the first importance if properly considered : in all cases where the hepatic functions are slow or impeded, the contents, both of the stomach and bowels, acquire a vitiated state ; in the former, there is a faulty gastric secretion mistaken for bile, which it is not ; in the latter, there is a heavy, adhesive, glairy, and vitiated mucus which lines the intestines, of a most tenacious consistence, and which prevents the regular action of these organs, and the formation of chyle in its proper state and quantity from the aliment received.

It may be observed in all cases, that the retention of fœces longer than is natural, by distending the alimentary tube will weaken its fibres, and



from the pressure it occasions on the contiguous viscera, obstruct the circulation and prevent that free and equal distribution of blood through their several vessels which is necessary to support the secretions and maintain the balance of the general system. These facts should have a material influence in directing a just and successful mode of treatment; they are like beacons to the mariner, and point out a safe steerage and fortunate passage through the dangers of hepatic disease, because, if attended to, they will enable the practitioner to form an accurate prognosis on their progress and termination.

It is well known that those accustomed to the inspection of the secretion of the kidneys, acquire a knowledge and experience in the variations, of the colour, consistence, smell, and other particulars of that fluid which qualify them to give the most astonishing prognosis on the nature and issue of many diseases. The celebrated Dr. Lind, of Haslar Hospital, I am informed, never felt the pulse of his patients, but judged from the appearance of the tongue and the eye.

In the same manner, I contend, that the know-

ledge of the existence, extent, and issue of hepatic diseases, is chiefly to be learnt from a careful and regular observation of the alvine discharges, which again, I express, every medical man should be accustomed to make, as it requires time, and close observation, before he becomes sufficiently acquainted with all the varieties, which are evidenced in the appearance of the biliary secretion, and before he can with steady confidence deduce from them such practical information as will confirm him in his opinion of the decided truths they invariably convey. This is, indeed, a subject which no physiologist has entered into, for, although there is an analysis given of the leading principles of the secretions of the human body by chemical writers, yet no examination has been made of their variations, in the state of health and disease; and of the different proportions which mark the same principles in these separate conditions; truly, it is only by such an examination giving the necessary experience, that a person can be completely sensible of all the changes going on in this secretion, and its effects, which are often singular, numerous, and complicated, acting sometimes on the joints, at other times on the muscles; frequently affecting

the mind, and driving the unhappy sufferer, in particular cases, to madness and suicide, so that in the language of Doctor Saunders, we may say, “it requires the tact of an experienced practitioner to discover the real seat of the mischief;” at the same time, in by far the greater number of instances, there is no pain or other sensation to direct us to the seat of the actual malady, and in three-fourths of the cases, if there is any pain present, it is on the opposite side, where it fixes its power on the phrenic nerve in that direction.

Where bile is locked up, or a great accumulation of it takes place in the liver, and gall-bladder, it produces congestion, and consequently pressure upon the large blood vessels of the abdomen, obstructing the equilibrium of circulation; the head here sympathizes, and always feels tight and corded, with a sense of stupidity, not unlike the effects that arise from the operation of opium; there is also a dry burning heat of the skin, more particularly affecting the palms of the hands, as in hectic cases.

In conducting the treatment then of this peculiar morbid cause, our remedies must be accommodated in their action to the progress of the dis-



order ; and in investigating the treatment of these complaints, it is necessary to ascertain, not only what medicines are beneficial, but also what changes they produce in the circumstances of the case, and whether the secretions of the liver are either suspended, deficient, or vitiated.

Hepatic, or liver disorders, in this country, admit a division into two stages :

1. That of a simple derangement of the hepatic functions ; and
2. An actual change in the organization of this gland.

As the progress of chronic hepatitis is slow, so it is long before any altered structure of the liver takes place, though its functions may be interrupted, and its secretions imperfect, sparing, and of an improper quality ; the attendant symptoms in this stage, are affections of the stomach, head-ach, transient pains in different parts, particularly the shoulders and side, and lowness or depression of mind.

In all these cases, the sparing secretion occasions a sluggishness of bowels, and an attention to these circumstances, joined with a minute observation of

the secretions, will invariably ascertain the true cause of the malady. The treatment here pointed out, is clearly to give full action to the stomach and bowels, by which the functions of the liver will materially be influenced ; and I cannot, indeed, too much impress the indispensable necessity there is, that our grand aim should be directed to the well emulging of the biliary ducts, and the being completely satisfied as to that essential and important fact, that the peculiar secretion passing by this outlet, be free, and unembarrassed.

Wherever obstructions of the liver exist, it is clear that the first digestion must go on very imperfectly, therefore the first indication in this case is, to clear the bowels of phlegm, and other causes of irritation ; the second, to remove the obstructions of this viscus, to restore the lost tone of the intestines, and to strengthen the system in general.

From the experience of practitioners in tropical climates, mercury has long been acknowledged, as the decided specific in all hepatic affections ; but, however proper it may be, in the state of hepatitis in these climates, the same mode of treatment is not to be pursued here : The cure by mercury requires

much judgment, nicety, and discrimination, to know the exact length to which it should be carried, for the purpose of acting upon the disease, without its being pushed so far, as to have an influence on the constitution, injurious to the general health ; mercury, indeed, stimulates the whole secreting system more and more equably than any other known remedy, it should, therefore, be employed no further than to excite what may be termed a necessary action, to rouse and give energy to the absorbents, but not to debilitate, weaken, or exhaust, by an overpowerful impression ; for although this mineral in local affections of the liver is a medicine of acknowledged efficacy when seasonably administered, yet there are cases, and not a few, where its use would be highly exceptionable and improper, and it is this discrimination in which the hand of experience is displayed.

The amazing doses of calomel borne in warm climates, are no criterion here, and the habits of this country, though the mercurial principle may be just, require milder methods of proceeding ; mercury is to be used only in a gentle and discreet manner, and is seldom necessary for any length of



time, in the first stage of the disease; for it is a well known law in pathology, that if the excitement of a gland is carried beyond a certain point, its discerning function can no longer be performed, in these circumstances, if a stimulus is applied to it, it often increases the vascular excitement upon which its suspension depends, instead of restoring the regular secretion, which is wanted.

As we have seen, that a tough glairy mucus lines the coats of the intestines, in hepatic cases, preventing the flow even of the small quantity of bile that is secreted, so the first step is, a careful removal of this vitiated matter, which keeps up morbid irritation, by the regular and constant exhibition of deobstruents. During their use, the secretions should be judiciously noticed, to discern when this is fully effected, and when the secretions display the true character and natural bilious appearance; as soon as the latter takes place, the passage of the bile is ensured; the preserving of this, and promoting its increased quantity by continuing to act on the functions of the liver, and augmenting its energy and circulation, are the next object. This is to be effected, by joining with our

deobstruents at this period, such auxiliary remedies of the tonic and invigorating class, as may produce the desired effect, without at the same time lessening the power of the deobstruents, which is never to be overlooked.

While we thus act on the organ and its secretions, the state of the stomach is not to be disregarded, the secretions here, are equally faulty as in the bowels; they consist, as we formerly stated, of a vitiated gastric matter resembling bile, but in fact possessing no portion of this fluid. It is this circumstance which misleads practitioners, and makes them suppose, that there is rather an excess than deficiency of bile, when they observe the matter brought up by the efforts of vomiting; the stomach, therefore, as well as the bowels, ought to be corrected of its similarly offending contents, which, from their irritation on the organ, generally continue the appetite unimpaired. It is only then, by these indications strictly laid down, and persevered in, that the cure of hepatic complaints can be accomplished; for indeed the bowels may be apparently emptied, and a profuse discharge take place by them, such as will satisfy a patient that they are

sufficiently open ; and yet there may be a real confinement of the passage of the bile, or else little or none secreted. Hence, we should by no means rest satisfied, until our endeavours have fully succeeded in emulging the liver : It is like the Augean stable, which demands equal zeal on the part of the patient, as on that of the practitioner, until this point is decidedly gained.

The medicines employed should be assisted by diet and regimen ; in the choice of diet, the proportion of vegetable food of the mild farinaceous kind should here exceed, but those vegetables which are apt to ferment and create flatulence, or distension, should be studiously avoided : The animal food should consist principally of mutton or beef, which should be well boiled or moderately roasted, and taken with its own gravy ; veal and pork are to be shunned, as well as most of the white meats ; likewise all oily matters, as they will turn rancid on the stomach, and produce a greater acridity of the gastric juice. This will necessarily exclude melted butter, every thing fried, every species of pastry, together with cold and raw or unboiled vegetables ; ripe fruits may



be admitted in moderate quantities, rather before than after dinner. It may, however, be observed here, and from attentive experience, I am persuaded that the stomach digests solid aliment more easily than liquid and bulky food, and that soups and broths are more quickly disposed to run into active fermentation, and require the exertion of more vitality to restrain such corrupt and spontaneous changes, than animal food in a solid form. At the same time, on this subject, we may with propriety introduce the maxim of Hippocrates, whose great judgment and observation will be admired in the same proportion as his writings are understood, a maxim which cannot be too strongly inculcated, "That diet must be proportioned to labour," and when the varied exercise and occupations of different persons are considered, it is matter of surprise that this precept should have been so little regarded.

Exercise, properly regulated, will, in all cases, very essentially contribute to restore and strengthen the action of the liver, but it must be adapted in its degree and the time of using it to the circumstances of the individual ; riding on horseback was

Sydenham's favourite exercise, by which he promised to cure every thing but the most confirmed consumptions.

This exercise is well suited to the early stage of chronic hepatitis, but after the liver has acquired an enlarged size, it is apt to be too severe ; when used, the time chosen should be between meals, and when the stomach is not oppressed with food : But the objection which applies to riding on horseback as being too severe in some instances of the disease, does not apply to another species of exercise at present very little employed, though sanctioned by remote antiquity, I mean frictions either with flannel, or a suitable brush ; the ancients have said so much in favor of this remedy, and the practice prevailed so long, that we may reasonably suppose very salutary effects were produced by it. “ In those bodies,” says Boerhaave, “ where any of the viscera destined to form the chyle, discharge their office imperfectly through a state of inactivity, the rubbing the abdomen with woollen cloths, in a morning fasting, has wrought wonderful effects.”

Galen, recommends, to all old men, the use of friction with oil in a morning after sleep, and

directs them to continue their accustomed labours, but with less vehemence.

As to diet, it is not so much in the quality, as in the quantity of food, in which man generally errs, the food, whatever it may be, should be well masticated, and I cannot too strongly enforce the absolute necessity there is for it to be well broken down with the teeth, and eaten leisurely, by which means the secretion of saliva will be increased and mixed with it, which passing into the stomach will promote digestion, and augment the powers of the organ, for the union of the gastric and salivary fluids is certainly intended to operate by a chemical agency on the food, in the preparation and separation of chyle. But, it may be laid down as a true maxim, that digestion is always best promoted by a state of rest after eating; while exercise of the body, on the contrary, is best adapted to restoring energy and promoting the necessary secretions afterwards.

The meals, particularly dinner, should also be made at an early hour, during which, water or toast-water should be the beverage taken, to the quantity of a pint at least.



The supper should be as light as possible, and, indeed, there should be none taken if it is the practice with the individual of deferring full meals, as is the present unhealthy fashion, to a late hour of the day ; all fermented liquors are to be carefully avoided by the patient, and though a little wine may be indulged in, it should never be carried to that extent as to produce heat, or cause the fever of digestion to be sensibly felt ; indeed, the good effects of temperance, though acknowledged by all, it is to be regretted, are but duly regarded by few.

It may be remarked here, that when the stomach is repeatedly overcharged with full meals of animal food, by such plenitude and over distension, its natural tone comes to be destroyed, its contents remain indigested, and the chyle obtained from it will be a crude impure mass not sufficiently elaborated by the powers of the organ.

To preserve the body, therefore, in the proper exercise of its functions, all those who eat plentifully or to the extent of their appetite, should daily have two motions ; and the great Mr. Locke, in his *Treatise on Education*, points out the necessity of this to health, advising every one to solicit

the call of nature night and morning, until it becomes a constant habit, by which means the inconvenience of constipation and all its mischievous consequences will be avoided.

By following up this arrangement, the first stage of chronic hepatitis may generally be remedied, and the nicety lies more in finding out the true cause of the disorder, than in the actual treatment at this period, which can only be done, we cannot too often repeat, by a careful inspection of the secretions; for the symptoms whether of stomach, bowels, head, or chest, are all equivocal, and may arise from a different cause than mere hepatic sympathy; hence, the latter can only be ascertained by a nice examination of the part or organ, which tells more in the advanced, than in the first stage of the disorder, or from observation of the alvine contents, which is at all times the truest evidence; and thus we are again reduced, as our certain criterion of information, to that observance of the secretions, so often recommended; the importance of which has never before been extensively surveyed, or accurately investigated.

## II. ALTERED ORGANIZATION OF THE LIVER.

FROM the first stage, then, we come to the more advanced progress of the disease, where the structure of the liver has already undergone an alteration in its healthy texture, from enlargement of substance, and occlusion of vessels. This takes place in various degrees, and to various extent; the morbid disposition also extends, from simple thickening, to the ultimate stage of scirrhus: it is amazing, under the influence of that irritation, to which the liver is subjected in the course of disease, to what a size it will often attain, and what a quantity of solid matter will occasionally be added to its substance. Surprising instances of this are to be found in the writings of medical authors; and that these morbid changes may be properly understood, we shall refer to Dr. Baillie's excellent work on morbid anatomy, where they are traced with much accuracy, and nice anatomical investigation, under all their complicated varieties and appearances. And it may here be noticed, that the affections of the liver observed after death, are much more numerous than those of any other secreting gland of



the system ; for not only is there perceived enlargement, induration, or a scirrhus state of the organ, but also a softness of its substance, and even a diminution of its bulk. Tubercles are also formed in it, and vesicular cysts, denominated hydatids ; adhesions likewise frequently take place betwixt it and the contiguous parts ; thus disease produces in its structure changes as numerous as they are difficult of explanation.

From this consideration of the ultimate stage of hepatic disease, as depending on the altered texture of the organ, it is clear that the most active, and energetic means are requisite to check the progress of such an alarming evil. Mercury, though partly objected to in the former stage, cannot be dispensed with here ; it should be introduced as nearly as possible, to the seat of the disease, and by its deobstruent operation on the liver itself, in exciting its general action, and as it were emulging it, its effects will be more speedily experienced. Whether mercury ameliorates and augments the secretions of the other organs as it does that of the liver, remains a point yet to be ascertained. Mercury, indeed, where properly administered, suited to the state of

the disease, acts as a spur upon the vascular system of the liver, and by its moderately stimulating effects, occasions at length a degree of action, by which the bile is properly elaborated, and health gradually restored.

With this medicine are to be joined, the powers of other deobstruents, most suited to make a decided and favourable impression on the organ, and by assisting the general remedies by local means, they will produce much advantage in expediting a cure. It is not to be concealed, however, that there is an ultimate stage, in which we cannot expect success, a strong reason for an early attention to the symptoms, which indicate the existence of such a disease; in this case, the impeded circulation of the organ, producing pressure on the venous system, occasions the appearance of dropsy, and when this consequence of scirrhus liver shews itself, little is to be expected: This state, however, seldom occurs, until a late period of life, as already noticed on that subject, and where it occurs early, success will often attend our treatment.

The Cheltenham waters are a popular remedy in liver complaints, with most invalids. However

useful these waters may be in the convalescent state, they do no service in the actual stage of the disease, and when they are employed, it is unfortunate for the patient, by superseding the advantage of active, and adequate means, suited to the true nature and urgency of the disorder ; their application cannot be too much reprobated, as injurious and delusive in a real liver disorder, and until the patient is actually in a convalescent state, they should never be resorted to ; they may assist health already beginning to be restored, but can by no means bestow it in the first instance.

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IN committing this treatise to the consideration of the public, I beg leave to make some observations which particularly apply to one class of patients, viz. those who have for some considerable period of their lives resided in a Tropical country.

A deficient secretion of the liver is, as we have shewn, the more general origin of bilious diseases in this country ; but that primary defect by no means applies to the hepatic affections of those who have been long residents in a warm climate, have returned with either the Europeo-Asiatic, or



other Tropical constitution, to this country, and who often import with them, all the distressing and obstinate symptoms of chronic hepatitis, with a variety of complaints arising from an infarcted liver.

In a warm climate, and indeed, in all Tropical countries, redundancy, depravity, and disorder of the biliary secretion, constitute, in some measure, a diathesis common to all, and the irregular functions of the liver so frequent in such cases, are generally connected with an excess of secretion, and a predominance of this principle gives the fluid its vitiated activity: The skin also possesses the same excess of secretion, and is constantly bathed in its own perspiration; this state, in regard to the skin, becomes soon restricted on the residence of the individual in a cold or more temperate atmosphere; but the liver does not so soon undergo this necessary change of condition; it still continues to prepare its elaborate fluid in a greater proportion than it ought under the existing circumstances in which the person is placed, and it is necessary, therefore, to pay particular attention more to moderate and restrain its excess and peccant quality, than to emulge too frequently, or elicit its discharge.

A different system of conduct is, therefore, necessary here, by a mild, absorbent, and tonic plan, gradually to bring back the too profuse organ to its original economy, which requires a gradual process and much attention, both on the part of the practitioner and of the patient, in order, as it were, to neutralize and overcome that tendency to the continuance of an acrid and vitiated secretion, which has been the cause of its so long acting on the blood and general system, by its irritating and morbid powers, so as to produce irregularities and other pernicious effects on the system.

Here the invigorating, absorbent, and neutralizing arrangement is strongly to be recommended, in preference to exciting, emulging, and increasing action, as is requisite in the deficient condition of the secretion in this climate, which has already been so amply discussed. By such prudent and well adapted measures, suited to the condition and constitution of the individuals in question, the liver will gradually be restored to its natural and regular economy, fitted to the change of climate and the due performance of the several other functions of the frame which are essential to perfect health.

From this detailed and practical view of the treatment of hepatic complaints, in nine-tenths of the cases that occur, their removal is within the reach of such an active and attentive management as we have here enjoined ; and if the directions of the practitioner are strictly adhered to, and persevered in, we may with some confidence assert, that the result will be much oftener successful under very unfavourable circumstances, than could have been expected or *looked for*,

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#### CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS.

MANY who peruse the present work may feel disappointed, that the Author has not entered more largely into Theory ; but those who know the fallacy of all speculation in medicine, will give him credit for making it entirely a Practical Treatise. The statements recorded are all drawn from practical facts ; an attentive and unwearied investigation for several years on the various changes in the different secretions, has enabled him to furnish the preceding remarks on the subject, and by forming his indication, entirely from their state and



appearance in the manner he has pointed out, he has been enabled to remove the complaints for which he has been applied to, and their removal has been always attended with a healthy return of the biliary discharge, which he invariably found the sure test of renovated health.

In concluding the present work, the Author must apologize to his readers for the seeming tautology that appears in some parts of it. This arises from his conviction of the importance of the subjects, and of the necessity of pressing, by repetition, certain leading points on the attention of his readers, whether professional or otherwise. It is his wish, that every one should view the attack of bilious diseases in the same formidable light that he does—they would then make use of every early effort in their power to remove them, and by such timely attention, prevent the many serious and fatal consequences, which too often arise from delay.

In the treatment, he has only entered into general principles. This is sufficient for the profession, and for the public it is unnecessary to enter into medical minutiae, which they could not of themselves carry into effect. The utility of it to the

public is to point out the frequency of hepatic disorders, the dangers of their continuance and neglect, and the importance of early caution to correct the habit, and prevent the accumulation of the secretion of the liver to excess, as well as its excessive diminution, both equally productive causes of disease. Though many volumes have been written on the subject, there is no author who has impressed the indispensable necessity of vigilant attention to the state of the secretions as a leading criterion to direct our conduct in this class of maladies, and demonstrated the little regard which is to be paid to the state of the bowels alone without this circumstance : It is a maxim drawn from long and tried experience, and from a constant practice in the treatment of these diseases presented to the author in all their forms and varieties in this and other climates.

And he may here say, that the ultimate perfection of all medical science, centers at last in the cure of diseases, and that is the most useful part of it, which enables us to accomplish this desirable end.

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## C A S E S.

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THE following cases selected from a great number which have fallen under my care, are here inserted, to illustrate the principles and the practice detailed in the preceding pages, and to shew the success which has attended their proper application.

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## CASE. HYDROCEPHALUS INTERNUS.

TOWARDS the end of last year, I was consulted respecting the case of a delicate young lady nearly four years of age, who had for some days previous to my visit, been attacked with fever, and for the preceding twenty hours had been lying in a state of stupefaction, apparently resembling one asleep ; On minute examination of the appearances, I was fully satisfied, it was a case of real hydrocephalus ; It was with difficulty I could rouse her for a moment, when her eyes were immediately again closed, the pupils on inspection, appeared much dilated, and occasionally turned upwards, there was also a disposition to strabismus, or squinting ; at this time it was mentioned to me by the parent, that the constant drowsiness, already noticed, had been much greater for the last eight hours ; the bowels were extremely confined, the pulse much accelerated with some degree of fulness : Forming my conclusions on the nature of this disease, as arising from a primary affection of the liver, I immediately began, conformably to the plan of cure, to excite the action of this organ :



Blood was drawn from its region by cupping, and enemata thrown up into the bowels, joined with strong cathartics; next day produced no change on the symptoms of the patient, on the contrary the torpor and drowsiness seemed increased, for she lay in a total senseless or comatose state; the strabismus or squinting was now completely formed; the bowels still continued obstinately constipated, in spite of the exhibition of the cathartics, which produced only a trifling discharge, probably brought on by the glysters; finding my patient continued in this alarming state, I had recourse to the most active means, the cupping was repeated to the extent of several ounces, succeeded by the application of a blister on the hypochondriac region, the head was kept well raised and a cool regimen enjoined: the following medicines were likewise administered;

R Pulv : Scam. Comp : gr. ij.

Hydrar : Submur : gr. i. ft. Pulv : secund : quaq :  
hora sumend.

R Potass: Tart: . . . ʒiij.

Mann: Opt: . . . ʒvi.

Resin: Jalap: . . gr. xij.

Infus: Sennæ: . ʒivss.

Tinct: Aloes . . ʒiij. m: ft: mist: sum:

Coch: ij. mag: sing: hor: post: Pulv:

In addition to the above, enemata were continued.

On the fifth day from my commencement, I had the pleasing satisfaction to observe the bowels disposed to resume their natural action, the motions became more copious; my plan was still continued and directed to the affection of the liver. In the progress, the symptoms varied, and were alternately better and worse, and often accompanied by an uncommon degree of torpor. It was not until the 8th day, that the action of the liver seemed recovered from its lethargic condition, and the suspended

operation of its functions, which hitherto prevailed. This was apparent by the motions, which now assumed their proper and healthy bilious tinge, having the appearance of wetted rhubarb. This appearance confirmed me in the happy presage I had formed, in which I was not disappointed, the stupor and drowsiness gradually abated ; but still afraid of a relapse, and that the biliary secretions might be again defective, I paid the strictest attention to its progressive operations, by which, the return of health and complete recovery was ensured in 18 days from the period of my first visit. Such cases of hydrocephalus, proceeding clearly from an hepatic source, require all the energies of the practitioner to be employed, and no direct or clear opinion can be pronounced, as to the recovery, until the object of well emulging this organ is decidedly effected, as the heaviness and the other symptoms of the head in these cases are only a consequence of a suffering and impervious or closed liver.

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#### CASE. ACCUMULATION OF DISEASED MUCUS.

Mr. K——, of Hunter-street, aged 58, corpulent and plethoric in his habit, had for several years been occasionally subject to pain and tightness of the chest ; on going up stairs, or any ascent, the breathing became immediately affected, and he was compelled to pause from stair to stair in order to get breath ; his pulse had been marked to have occasional interruptions during the last three years, the intermissions of which, were sometimes really alarming from the long pauses made in the circulation : Some months since being requested to see him, I found, on enquiry, he had passed considerable quantities from the bowels of extremely heavy viscid mucus, of a yellowish colour, and some hours previous to my visit at this time, had discharged several motions of this kind : I ordered him, in this state immediately to bed, and for three days he took small doses of the sub.

carbonate of potash locked up in the almond mixture, every four hours, with a thin diet, chiefly of gruel. For four days he continued to discharge, several times in the course of each day, large quantities of mucus, unmixed with any other matter, to the extent, altogether, I am firmly convinced, of from eight to twelve pounds; his diet was carefully improved until the bowels had acquired some apparent strength, and marks of recovery; the removal of this astonishing load of mucus, seems to have acted on the patient like a charm, the pain of the chest was wholly removed, he could ascend the stairs with comfort and ease. His case had been considered by several medical gentlemen whom he had consulted, as dropsy of the chest, by some, as an accumulation of fat about the heart, and by others, as ossification of the vessels. This case tends clearly to shew what serious symptoms may be produced solely by immense collections of mucus, acting either from its weight or vitiated and diseased condition; I could enumerate several other instances, where the accumulations of such mucus, occasioned symptoms of the highest importance and concern, all produced from a defective secretion of bile, and a corresponding torpor of the intestines.

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### MISTAKEN PECTORAL CASES.

AN officer of rank in the army, recently arrived from the West Indies, and who resided at the New Hummums, Covent Garden, became my patient in February 1814. He had, while in the West Indies, been subject to an affection of the liver. His present symptoms were a troublesome cough, attended with oppression of the chest, and some fever, his skin hot and dry, expectorated much yellow matter resembling pus, which created in him much uneasiness and alarm, fearing that it might arise from ulceration of the lungs. I assured him, however, that this expectoration was nothing more than vitiated mucus, and that the whole train of symptoms were connected with a



disordered condition of the liver, and not any diseased state of the lungs, that the liver was truly the primary seat of the complaint, and the remote thoracic distress only symptomatic. My opinion was verified by the issue of the complaint, from which he entirely recovered in less than a month.

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Mr. B——, of South Audley-street, of a delicate constitution, about 20 years of age, had been residing some time in the country, where he had bathed several times. On his return to town, I was called to attend him, when I found him labouring under considerable influence of fever, violent pain of the head, with a thick coated tongue, and extremely thirsty, face flushed, and a general increase of heat pervaded the body, pulse particularly accelerated with some hardness; he had been poorly some few days, feeling alternate chills and heats. He was confined to his bed, and by febrifuge, and deobstruent medicines, in about a fortnight he became convalescent, which induced him to take an airing in the carriage, he remained out some time, during which he felt the air chill him considerably; and in the space of 24 hours from this period, a fresh accession of fever took place, accompanied with considerable tightness, and oppression of the chest, attended with cough, pulse full and frequent, bowels betrayed an evident fault in the biliary secretion. In about ten days the fever assumed an intermittent, or aguish character of the tertian form, the cough still continuing, and in a short time, this was succeeded by an expectoration apparently purulent. A highly respectable physician was, at this time, in attendance with me, who, after a few visits, decidedly pronounced the disease as marked consumption, pointing out to me his positive belief that tubercles had formed in the lungs, and in order to give his opinion greater weight, he particularly referred me to some valuable observations of the late Dr. Heberden recorded in the Medical Transactions, on the formation of matter, and the errors sometimes committed in viewing the fever as of the

intermittent stamp, instead of seeing it in its true hectic bearing. The cough and spitting continued, as did the intermittent, his opinion remained the same, indeed, the conclusion drawn by him was, that the patient could not outlive two or three months; in this decision, however, I entirely differed from him, and this I stated to the friends of the patient, observing, that I considered the chills or rigours, as marking a diseased condition of the liver, and not of the lungs. The event verified my prediction, as, in the course of a few months he recovered.

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Miss G——, aged 11 years, daughter of a merchant in the city, was sent to Kensington, for country air, at the express desire of her medical attendants, who pronounced her to be in a deep decline, or last stage of pulmonary consumption. She was at this time placed under my care, I found her with a teasing and almost incessant cough, attended by an immense quantity of expectoration of thick mucus resembling pus, with a dry hectic heat over the whole body, great thirst, much emaciation, and considerable debility, to that degree she could scarcely stand: The pulse beat 120 in the minute. On minutely examining this case, I was soon fully satisfied that her alarming train of symptoms did not arise from an organic affection or ulcerated state of the lungs, but from a considerable obstruction or altered structure of the liver, indeed, this was the case to an extensive degree, as an enlargement of this organ was distinctly marked at its lower lobe. Hence, this expectoration consisted not of real pus, but of vitiated mucus depending on the fixed irritation kept up in the pulmonary organs from this cause, by the increased action produced in these parts. My opinion was justified by the event; the arrangement of her case commenced early in July, and by the end of August, her health was re-established.

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Miss N——, about 13 years of age, born at Jamaica, had arrived in this country four months. At the time I was consulted, she was under the care of two physicians, both men of importance, who gave it as their opinion, that her disease was pulmonary consumption, and that ulceration had absolutely taken place in the substance of the lungs. On my first visit, I found her labouring under a severe hollow cough coming on in violent fits, but not quite so severe as it had been; the pulse was small and exceedingly accelerated; the tongue was little affected; her expectorations consisted of large quantities of viscid mucus resembling pus, but was really nothing else but mucus secreted from an irritating cause, and shewing a diseased appearance. After examining the side and body, in a very careful manner, and seeing her again, at which time I had an opportunity of viewing the secretions: I pronounced the disease to be evidently an affection of the liver, and that the lungs were suffering from the cavity of the chest being contracted, from which confinement they were incapable of performing their functions, but with difficulty and distress; shortly after this the expectoration ceased, and her health progressively improved to her full recovery.

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I have now under my care a gentleman, 40 years of age, who had, six months previous to my seeing him, laboured under a cough and difficulty of breathing, referred by those physicians who had hitherto attended him, to a diseased state of the lungs. On his application to me, the leading symptoms were much emaciation, impeded respiration with a teasing cough, to that degree that he could not lie in bed without having his chest raised, great dejection of mind and prostration of strength, with a slight pain at the pit of the stomach; his pulse at this time was 120, with a hot and dry skin, appetite not much impaired, felt full and uneasy after dinner, the tongue apparently in a natural state. On examining his body, I clearly discovered some fulness in the right hypochondriac region, and on pressing



my finger in the situation of the liver, it produced sensible pain and uneasiness, causing him such irritation, as to oblige him to cough considerably. Here then was embodied the source of the mischief; a considerable enlargement had taken place in the liver, which was sufficiently perceptible at the margin of the ribs, this enlargement no doubt extended deeply into the organ, and equally pervaded its upper surface; the consequence then of this alteration of structure, was to curtail the usual space of the thoracic viscera, by the pressure made on the diaphragm, the natural effect of which would be by the confinement induced, the teasing cough constantly present in such cases.

He was immediately placed on a course of mild deobstruents, and I directed to be rubbed over the right side, for twenty-five minutes every night, the following liniment;

R Ung: Hyd: Fort: 3ss.

Camphor: gr. iv. ft: Lin:

In the course of a few days, a decided amendment took place, the cough became less troublesome, his breathing freer and less impeded, and in a fortnight the cough had almost left him, the pulse is daily lessening in frequency, and the general hectic heat greatly abated; at the end of five or six weeks, I entertain no doubt but that he will be completely recovered, as the enlargement of the liver is already very considerably reduced.

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In this edition of the work, the author has the satisfaction to announce the complete recovery of the above patient from his dangerous, and to many apparently hopeless, situation.

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Mrs. P——, of Phillimore Place, Kensington, of a thin and delicate frame, about 38 years of age. Her complaints were a severe cough, with much oppression of chest and laborious breathing for some time, and to that degree, that the least

motion in moving up or down stairs, occasioned such distress in the respiration, as rendered her unable for a while to speak; she had been under the care of several medical gentlemen, who had prescribed for her a variety of pectoral medicines, without any lasting relief. The source of her cough and pulmonary symptoms I soon discovered to be seated in the liver, the upper lobe of which being enlarged, pressed on the diaphragm, and thereby confined the situation of the lungs, which not being allowed their proper expansion, were impeded in their functions; the lower edge of the liver was much thickened, which led me of course to consider that its upper surface might have assumed the same altered state. In a few days from this view of her disease, I was enabled to considerably relieve her, and at the expiration of six weeks, she was perfectly well.

The preceding cases place in a stronger point of view, (what has been only casually noticed by former writers,) the strong influence which a disordered condition of the liver has on some of the principal organs, particularly on the pulmonic system. From not having a thorough knowledge of this fact, some of the first professional characters have been misled, both in their prognosis and treatment; hence, we cannot be too much on our guard in all cases where the lungs are affected, in investigating whether these organs, or the liver, are the primary seat of the malady, and the central and active source of the morbid irritation.

#### CASES. ACUTE HEPATITIS.

Miss ———, in the neighbourhood of Fitzroy Square, aged 22, of a delicate and spare constitution, was attacked with acute hepatitis. The earliest symptom she experienced, was that of feeling so extremely heavy and disposed to sleep, that it was with great difficulty she could at all keep herself awake, this arose about 14 hours previous to the attack of pain, which she

then began to feel in a very sensible degree in the right hypochondrium, shooting to the back and shoulders, accompanied with considerable general heat, full and quick pulse, much thirst, great restlessness and uneasiness; the liver, when pressed on with the fingers, was so exquisitely painful, as to occasion her to experience great distress, the bowels had been in a state of confinement some time, she felt some oppression of the chest, but without cough; bleeding was instantly employed to the amount of ten ounces, with active cathartics; on finding, at the distance of 8 hours, the inflammation was extending over the membrane of the abdomen, with an increase of pain, the bleeding was repeated, cupping over the part was likewise used; observing the bowels were not acted upon in any way satisfactorily, I ordered glysters to be thrown up every six hours, at the same time following up nearly such an arrangement as is recommended in the treatment of this disease. She went through a most restless and painful night, and in the morning the symptoms of spreading inflammation had much increased, with a general tenderness over the chief part of the peritoneum, the pulse felt tight, full, and much accelerated, the tongue foul, with great thirst; bowels had acted, but sparingly: She was bled a third time nearly to fainting, cupping was again had recourse to, subsequent to which a large blister was applied over the right side; towards evening the pain was in a great degree arrested, inflammation was reduced, and a general relief was the consequence. The bowels happily had now been emptying themselves more freely, the discharges were highly fœtid, and appeared like fœces long confined; from this period the symptoms gradually yielded, she passed a much better night, with occasional slumbers, and in the morning I observed she had discharged several black liquid motions, which continued of that nature through the day. Every thing now assumed the most favorable disposition, and by keeping up the principle advised under the head of treatment for acute hepatitis, my patient daily amended, and her recovery was completely effected in three weeks.



Mr. Y——, of Bernard-street, aged 49, of tall stature, and delicate make, who had returned to this country six months from Barbadoes, where he had resided some years. He had not enjoyed good health for a considerable time, was in the habit of taking freely of wine, and of late his legs swelled towards evening. In the month of June, I was requested to visit him, and found his disease to be an acute affection of the liver, much pungent pain over the organ, cough, with short and laboured respiration, extremely thirsty, with furred tongue, a diffused dry heat pervaded the whole body, the pulse was hard, full, and frequent, could not lie but on the right side, great dejection of spirits, and considerable restlessness; he had been labouring under these symptoms nearly twenty hours previous to my having seen him; in the last four hours they had increased with considerable violence. About eight ounces of blood were immediately drawn from the arm; and shortly after, cupping over the side to the amount of nine ounces; he was likewise ordered the following:—

R Hyd: Submuriat: gr. xij.  
 Ext: Colocynth: Comp: gr. xxv.  
 Sap: Castill: gr. x. ft: Pil: ix.  
 Sumt: iij. quaque hora.  
 R Infus: Sennæ ℥iv.  
 Potassæ Tart: ℥v.  
 Mannæ Opt: ℥ss.  
 Tinct: Jalap:  
 ——— Aloes āā ℥i ss: m: ft: mist:  
 Capt: Coch: iv. mag: cum sing: dos: Pil:

The medicines operated, and brought from the bowels a considerable quantity of foetid water, but no solid matter, nor were there scarcely any fœces mixed with the discharges, the breath was relieved, but the pain of the side had increased, and the inflammation extended over a large surface of the peritoneum, the pulse was more frequent, and somewhat irregular; fearing from

the mode of his general living, and his present state of constitution, I hesitated about bleeding again from the arm, thinking I might impoverish too much his debilitated powers, therefore, as he objected to cupping again, 15 leeches were applied over the side and abdomen, and a cathartic enema injected, a short time after which, a profuse operation from the bowels came on, bringing off an immense quantity of feculent matter, most highly offensive in smell, after which, he experienced almost instant relief; he was then ordered the following :

R Lact: Amygd:  $\bar{z}$ iss.

Magnes: Sulph:  $\bar{z}$ iss.

Mann: Opt:  $\bar{z}$ i.

Pulv: Ipecac: gr. ss. ft. Haust.

4<sup>a</sup>. quaque hora sumendus.

The bowels continued to discharge, and in proportion as they seemed emptied, the inflammatory symptoms diminished. By confining him to his bed, on a low vegetable diet, and acid drinks, making such alterations in the medicines, and on other points proportioned to the improving condition of his strength, he by degrees got better, and at the end of 14 days his health appeared restored; but considering this indisposition as arising from an imperfect secretion of bile, he was advised to continue on some deobstruent plan for a month, with a suitable diet, when his health was entirely re-established.

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Mr. F——, of Marchmont-street, of a plethoric temperament, aged 29, was attacked with acute hepatitis; it commenced with shiverings, nausea, followed by a considerable vomiting of vitiated gastric fluid, tightness of the chest, with some oppression of respiration and cough, head-ach, great thirst, considerable diffused heat over the whole body, pulse hard, full, and much accelerated, attended with great restlessness and acute

pain of the right side, running towards the shoulder blades, the gentlest pressure over the liver, gave him exquisite pain, uneasiness, and a disposition to cough ; these symptoms began to affect him in the night, and were amazingly increased by the morning, when I first visited him ; I instantly bled him from a large orifice in the arm, to the extent of 14 ounces, and ordered some active cathartic medicines. In the evening of the same day, the inflammatory symptoms were materially increased, the bowels had been operated on but sparingly. Bleeding was again employed, and as the pain of the side had increased, and was spreading over the peritoneum, cupping over the part to the quantity of 8 ounces was likewise had recourse to, with cooling deobstruent medicines, &c. ; he was very restless through the night, with occasional delirium, and in the morning I found the symptoms were considerably augmented, with a general extending inflammation over the whole membrane of the abdomen. Fourteen ounces more of blood were taken from the arm, and he was again cupped, cathartic enemata were thrown up.

Indeed this case was stubborn, and accompanied with such high inflammatory action, as did not yield until after seven bleedings from the arm, four cuppings over the side and abdomen, and the application of twelve leeches ; the bowels were very torpid, and it was not until the third day, that they operated at all efficiently ; at this period my patient's dangerous and alarming state was by degrees ameliorated, and by strict care and nice attention (such as I have previously advised) for a week, the symptoms of inflammation were wholly overcome, and his health restored in rather more than three weeks.



## CHRONIC HEPATITIS,

CASES.

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Mr. L——, a gentleman, 38 years of age, after a residence of ten years at Bengal, returned to this country, two months after which, he felt himself indisposed, and complained of great debility; considerable pain, resembling rheumatism, was felt in both shoulders, more particularly occupying the left one, attended with a dull heavy pain, occasionally in the right side; these symptoms were attended with considerable depression of spirits, his skin was hot and dry, more especially the palms of the hands, which towards evening felt exceedingly uncomfortable, with a mottled appearance and burning heat; the appetite was good, rather keen than otherwise, his nights, however, were restless, and often interrupted by frightful dreams and distressing apprehensions, the pulse was but little affected, there was no increased thirst: yet, in the morning, the tongue at the root part was coated with much thick mucus.

After having ascertained these particulars, I examined the region of the liver, where on pressing my finger, he described it, as occasioning him much uneasiness and pain; the alvine excretions were particularly improper; I prescribed him a course of medicines so as to alter the deranged functions of the liver, and thereby repair the faulty bilious secretion, by which means his recovery was effected in six weeks.

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In January 1814, I was consulted, (by letter) by a gentleman of Southampton, who was recommended to me by his relation, whom I had attended in town, with an affection of the liver, and who, at this period, was on a visit to him; and as the de-

scription given of the complaint was tolerably accurate, I prescribed medicines for the case.

*Southampton, January 4, 1814.*

SIR,

HAVING been strongly recommended to consult you on my case, by Mr. H. late your patient, and not having it in my power to quit home, I considered, if I drew up a statement of my sufferings, you might be enabled to render me some service.

I have been getting very poorly for these last three years, and which of late has much increased, my age is 42. I, at times, have a dull heavy pain about the shoulder blades, occasionally feel a fulness and tightness of the right side, always after dinner I feel full and much inclined to sleep; my appetite is good, I eat of nourishing kinds of food, yet feel weak, and any trifling exertion fatigues me, I have no thirst or fever; towards evening my hands are dry and hot, my nights are disturbed by distressing dreams, my stomach and bowels seem always full of wind. I am generally costive, yet occasionally the bowels are relaxed. Often when I go to motion I have much straining, and little or none comes away: My water is nearly as pale as spring water, I am much cast down in my spirits. If you are from these particulars able to render me benefit, I shall ever gratefully acknowledge the same.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient, humble Servant,

J. N.

*To Mr. Faithhorn, Surgeon,  
Berners Street, London.*

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From the above plain statement it appeared, that the biliary secretions had long been in a highly deranged state, and that there prevailed an irregular condition of the bowels, such as

sometimes attends a flow of the bile, or other times its total occlusion, or imperfect formation; this was evidently caused both by a slow or impeded circulation of the organ, and by a quantity of viscid slime or mucus, obstructing the biliary ducts, and likewise lining the surface of the bowels, thus preventing the flow of the bile into the duodenum. In my directions, therefore, two objects were to be attended to, the first was, to remove the vitiated mucus which had accumulated in these passages; and the second, to give the due action to the liver, by which its functions might be properly carried on; both these points were happily accomplished by the plan recommended, and in the space of three weeks I succeeded in giving him complete satisfaction, his health being greatly restored, and from the perseverance of a month longer, with some addition of tonic, and other invigorating remedies, his constitution was so amended, that he declared in his last correspondence to me, that his spirits, and general frame of health, appeared to him as vigorous as ever.

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A similar case to the above was sent me from Bristol, in consequence of the patient having read in my Treatise, the success which had attended my practice with the Southampton patient; his letter, giving the detail of his sufferings, is as follows:

*Bristol, January 18th, 1815.*

SIR,

I have just purchased your work on Liver Complaints and Bilious Disorders, in the hope of ascertaining, if I could obtain advice and relief, by consulting with you, respecting an indisposition under which I have been labouring for these four or five years past.

I am induced to hope, Sir, you will favour me with your advice, as I perceive in the list of cases in your publication, there is one, from a gentleman of Southampton, who consulted you by letter, and happily received great benefit.—As concisely,



therefore, as I am able, I will state my case to you.—I will first premise, that I have twice applied to two eminent physicians of Bristol, but have not derived much advantage therefrom ; some benefit I have certainly received, but, I believe, it has arisen from attention to the diet they prescribed, rather than the medicines, and though I do not feel so ill as two years since, yet, I am now far from enjoying comfortable health.

My symptoms greatly resemble those of the above named gentleman, though, perhaps, I have them in a somewhat slighter degree.

I have felt unwell for the last five years ; and almost constant depression of spirits oppresses me ; frequently feel a dull pain low in the right side ; a sense of fulness after dinner (and more depressed then) ; an irritability which affects me on the slightest occasion, and often produces great nervous distress ; want of presence of mind, which affects my memory ; and a great reluctance to enter any society, or engage in any enterprize. I have, in general, a good appetite, though my food does not strengthen me as I found in early years. I am nearly 28 years of age, and as a boy enjoyed remarkably good health and spirits, have always lived temperately, never exceed two glasses of white wine after dinner, and have drank water for these four or five years past.

I must likewise mention that I am generally costive, attended with piles, and am never comfortable without having recourse to aperient medicine ; I have derived relief from a prescription which a friend advised me to try, consisting of fifteen grains of rhubarb with three of ipecacuanha, this affords me relief, and I always feel more cheerful the following day, but when I omit it, my old feelings return. I forgot to add that I make water in a very sparing manner, and discharge it with feebleness, though, in this particular, I am not so ill as one or two years since.

The above plain statement, Sir, will, I trust, enable you to recommend me means that will restore me to a state of sound health, to which I have been so long a stranger.

I remain, very respectfully yours,

W. B.

On the above case, I have only to add, that in his last letter, dated March the 10th, he expressed in the warmest manner his gratitude to me, for his complete recovery.

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Mr. P——, a gentleman of a firm muscular habit, and in stature rather above the middle size, who had been long in business, and at the age of 65, retired from active life, began, in the course of a twelvemonth, to be much troubled with symptoms of indigestion, flatulence, and occasional pains of the right side, extending to the top of the shoulder; in the early part of the day, he was tolerably well, but immediately after a full meal, felt much distension, pressure, and uneasiness; his nights, if not sleepless, were much broken and interrupted by a slow hectic, which occasioned considerable irritation, his look was sallow, the eyes had a dull yellow tinge, were heavy, and oppressed, his bowels were irregular, but generally constipated, his urine in small quantities and high coloured; this train of symptoms had been gradually increasing, and though not such as to prove highly alarming, yet they rendered him in the highest degree uncomfortable, and preyed on his mind and spirits in a wonderful degree; in this state, exercise was a burthen, and he could not relish any thing that was attended with exertion, or created any activity on his part; what he formerly took pleasure in, was now irksome and distressing, and he seemed to possess the real tedium vitæ, with every means of enjoyment in his power.

On being called to him, I entertained no doubt of the origin and nature of his complaints, and on examining the region of the liver, there was felt some slight uneasiness on pressure, and the margin, though not sensibly enlarged to the touch, was firmer and fuller than it ought to be; the alvine excretions were of a dry, firm, and comprest appearance, wanting both that mucus destined for the purpose of lubricating them, and also that yellow feculent character, which shews a proper mixture of the biliary secretion, and in its due quantity.

In directing the treatment, the first step I considered necessary, was to give action to the biliary secretion, by affecting the liver, and also expediting its secretion through the intestines; the consequence of this was, that the state of the system became very soon altered, the power of the stomach was improved, and the process of digestion rendered active and correct; the same change was operated on in the bowels, the secretions of which acquired their proper yellow colour, were less tenacious and firm, and became covered with a thin layer of mucus; these changes were rapidly followed by a return of health, animation, and spirits, and a total loss of the unpleasant symptoms which had for a long time past embittered life: The patient resumed, with alacrity, his former habits, entered into the society of his acquaintance and friends with satisfaction, and saw every thing in that agreeable light which attends a healthy body and contented mind; the same plan was continued for some time, and so sensible was the patient of its advantages, that he would by no means give up his medicines, after I had considered them as no longer necessary.

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Mr. F——, of Harley-street, Cavendish-square, was under my care for a chronic affection of the liver, the symptoms of which were confined to acute pain about the shoulder blade, and restless uneasy nights. On examining the side, I found the lower surface of the liver thickened and somewhat hardened. He was immediately put on a proper course of deobstruents, with suitable instructions, when at the end of two months his health was entirely re-established.

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In December last, I was requested to visit Mr. W——, of Baker-street, aged 47, who had been ill twelve months, he was of a sallow complexion, appeared much emaciated at this time,



and laboured under an exquisitely formed hectic fever, his stomach was irritable, and much affected with nausea and vomiting, more particularly on the taking of solid food, he had also a slight cough, some tightness in breathing, a considerable degree of dry burning heat pervaded the whole body, the tongue appeared dry, without any mucus covering, pulse was hard and quick, with irregularity, and he experienced excessive thirst. On examining the abdomen, I observed some considerable fulness of the right hypochondriac region, acutely painful to the touch, and on much pressure, nearly occasioning fainting.

From the appearances altogether, I felt scarcely any doubt that suppuration had taken place in the substance of the liver, but as it did not point favourably for the success of an operation, none could, with propriety, be adopted; however, at the end of a fortnight, the abscess burst, and nature, most fortunately for the patient, emptied the matter through the biliary ducts, and it continued to pass by the bowels for three weeks; from this period, the fever, and other symptoms, gradually subsided; by mild tonic medicines, joined with some deobstruents, and a carefully arranged diet, he, to the astonishment of all his friends, in the space of three months, regained his health.

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Mrs. K——, of a tender and nervous constitution, came out of Essex, to place herself under my care, she had been ailing four years, and had sought relief from several of the faculty without any permanent benefit. She complained of a pain in the left side, distress in the stomach after meals, more particularly after dinner, which would often be rejected, greatly annoyed with flatulence in the bowels, her tongue clean, without fever or thirst, appetite unimpaired, her nights were restless, being much disturbed with frightful and alarming dreams, the palms of the hands generally felt hot and burning, bowels were irregular, and her mind seemed under the influence of considerable depression. Judging from the outline of these symptoms, that

the liver might be the primary and only cause of her sufferings, I was led to examine the side, when I discovered a fulness and some hardness of the edges of this organ, the secretions of the bowels were in quantity scanty, and, in quality, egregiously incorrect; the first step I proceeded on in this case, was to cleanse well the alimentary canal, with the medicines as prescribed in the former edition, a combination I have always found of the highest utility, both for its correcting and evacuant properties in the first instance; to judge of such combinations, experience is the criterion, not theoretical reasoning, and here the opinion of that eminent physician Dr. George Fordyce, justly applies with considerable effect, who has remarked, that the combination of different substances often exerts a peculiar action, which their separate administration cannot produce, and particularly in those medicines directed to act on the first passages. At the end of seven days, finding the functions of the kidneys were torpid and inactive, I found it necessary to make the following change, suited to rouse these glands, and to complete my general principle of stimulating and rendering more active every emunctory, having a connection with, or influenced by the secretion of the liver :

R Pil: Cambog: Comp: gr. viij.

Hydrar: Submuriat: gr. iv.

Sap: Venet: gr. ij. M. ft. Bolus hora decubitus  
sumendus.

R Potass: Acet: ℥ss.

Sp: Æther: Nitros: ℥iss.

Infus: Rhei: ℥ij.

Tinct: Sennæ: ℥ij.

Mannæ: Opt: ℥ij.

Aq: Distil: ℥x. M. ft. Mist:

Sumt: dimid: cras primo mane et repet: reliq:

2a : hor: postea.

After these medicines were taken, I still proceeded on the

same arrangement of principle which kept the great cause of disease, the liver in view, and by being brought to a more correct action, it consequently was enabled to secrete its bile more perfectly, by which means the spirits and strength of my patient became improved, and her general health was regained at the end of nine weeks.

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Mr. C——, of Wimpole-street, aged 42, of short stature, and rather of a full make, had throughout his life, until within five months, enjoyed a good share of health. On his application to me, he complained of some tightness over his eyes, with a general state of lassitude and debility, much depressed in his spirits, and inclined to melancholy, his countenance was sallow, with a considerable heaviness and dullness of the eyes, appetite so increased as often to make him think that enough was not provided, and he ate his food with much eagerness, (this symptom I have often noticed in hepatic obstructions); bowels constipated, and when acted on, the operations were made with much straining, effort, and difficulty, with but a small discharge; pulse good, and had no particular thirst. The secretions were highly incorrect and vitiated, the abdomen felt hard and distended, and the edge of the liver was much thickened. The first consideration in this case, was to take off the determination of blood to the head, by brisk cathartics, preceded by cupping at the back of the neck, after which, in order to render the action of the hepatic organs more perfect, he was put on a short course of deobstruents, and in five weeks his complaints were completely removed.

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Mr. P——, 44 years of age, who had passed several years of his life at Jamaica, had, until within these two years, been of an active and cheerful turn of mind, but something had for many months so preyed on his spirits, as to render those things which were formerly the most comfortable and agreeable



to him, now the most burthensome and distressing. On his application to me, he observed he could not account for that dull and heavy state of oppression he experienced, no pain was felt, his appetite good, and the only symptom which he particularly noticed to me was his being troubled with immense quantities of wind, and in such abundance, as obliged him frequently to be throwing it off the stomach, which, from the noise it often occasioned, used to perplex and vex him exceedingly ; his general countenance appeared cast down, pulse rather depressed, his sleep was heavy, and he did not awake as he formerly did, but felt a great exertion required to rouse himself, bowels acted daily once, but this operation was performed with much difficulty and straining effort.

Judging from the large collections of wind which were constantly generating in the stomach, (and which could not possibly be formed if the biliary and gastric fluids were in a correct condition), that the liver did not perform its office with that necessary energy required, I was led to examine in what state the organ felt, this I did, and could not discover any thing from which to draw a practical conclusion, as there was neither sensible enlargement nor induration ; I then proceeded to observe the secretions with diligence, and here I obtained such full and sufficient evidence of their unhealthy character, as completely to satisfy me that the primary cause of this patient's despondency, and large accumulation of wind, originated from the morbid and imperfect bile, which the organ had been for a long period pouring out ; thus, having obtained from this accurate test, such unequivocal intelligence as to the nature of this case, I felt no difficulty in assuring my patient, that, by attentively persevering in the deobstruent arrangement which I should prescribe for him, he would obtain, in a short time, a return of general health and spirits, which was fully attained in the course of eleven weeks, by rousing the torpid liver to such energy as to be capable of secreting its fluid correctly in quality and quantity.

Mr. H——, of Gower-street, after a residence of seventeen years on the Malabar coast, was of late affected with a dull heavy sensation in the right side, to which was joined a stiffness and inability of the ankles and knee joints. A particular sense of heaviness always seized him after dinner; the pulse was in no way affected. On examining the right side, it appeared fuller than the opposite one, and the edges of the liver were evidently hardened and sharp. The diet and medicines prescribed were strictly persevered in for seven weeks, at which period he was perfectly restored.

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Miss D——, of Beaumont-street, of pale complexion, aged 24, had not been well for a length of time; at the period I was consulted she informed me her spirits were exceedingly low and depressed, that every thing around her appeared dreary and dismal, every effort made in her power to oppose this melancholy was without effect, her head often felt tight, and occasionally was attacked with giddiness, her remaining long in a confined situation, or any particular effluvia arising even from dinner, would often bring on fainting, the slightest circumstance usually caused a flushing of the face, which, after dinner, or on taking a glass of wine, became highly and distressingly so; she was subject to very cold feet, appetite irregular, a good deal troubled with flatulence, and fulness about the pit of the stomach, her night's rest were tolerable, pulse small and depressed, no thirst, neither was the tongue affected; bowels confined.

On viewing the secretions, they betrayed sufficient evidence of incorrectness, both in quantity and quality, causes fully adequate to derange the proper economy of other organs, which generally sympathize with a disturbed liver. In this case, those principles were enforced which were capable of unloading this gland of its impure bile, and bringing its action to that

standard suitable to the secretion of a more healthy kind, and in accomplishing this, which was effected in rather more than seven weeks, my patient's recovery was perfected.

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Mr. V——, of Devonshire-place, aged 59, of a tall, thin make, had, in general, enjoyed a good share of health, which was interrupted during the last three months, by a considerable drowsiness and disposition to sleep, which after dinner, was so much increased, as required great exertion in order to prevent his falling asleep. He was much annoyed with large collections of wind in the stomach, and generally felt oppressed after meals, had pains occasionally running over the left side, was without thirst, with a regular pulse, had of late been losing flesh, more particularly so about the face, which appeared greatly emaciated, bowels irregular, felt a general weakness and debility, every trifling exertion fatigued him, his rest of a night was pretty good, yet, in the morning, he felt tired and unrefreshed, with as much seeming weakness, as if he had not rested at all. This latter circumstance is a frequent attendant in these complaints, and usually indicates an improper chy-lification, from the deficient powers of the absorbents, occasioned by the torpid liver. Absorbent and deobstruent remedies were employed to energize this organ, and correct its secretions, which were materially wrong. In strictly keeping to the regimen enjoined, and these means, his health was regained in a month.

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Mrs. W——, of Charlotte-street, aged 34, lusty, and of a plethoric habit, who had been married ten years, and the mother of six children. For these last fifteen months had felt herself extremely poorly, and on her consulting me, complained of much tightness and oppression of the chest, with some ob-



struction of respiration, almost constant head-achs, with occasional giddiness to such a degree, as often to make her afraid of falling, no thirst, appetite somewhat impaired, was largely troubled with wind, both in the stomach and bowels, the catamenia regular, bowels constipated, and when operating, discharge very sparingly, and that with great straining exertion; the skin felt hot, dry, and burning, pulse in a measure depressed, countenance leaden and sallow, with weight and heaviness of the eyes. After having observed the secretions, which were exceedingly improper, I examined the right side, but could not detect from the feel of the liver, at this part, any alteration, although, from the symptoms and state of the secretions, there remained no doubt on my mind, that the upper part of its surface was considerably diseased. The first step I took in this case was that of cupping from the nape of the neck; with a pretty strong and brisk cathartic, followed by drawing blood from the hypochondriac region with leeches, and then directing her strictly to persevere in the deobstruent arrangement advised, which after being taken a week, began to operate on the functions of the liver as was evident by the improved condition of its secretions; amendment was progressive to the return of health, which was established in rather better than six weeks.

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Mr. O——, of Orchard-street, aged 36, of a thin delicate habit, had found himself not altogether well for near ten months, at the time of my seeing him, his principal ailment was a constant disposition to drowsiness, and to that degree did it prevail after dinner, that it was with much difficulty he could keep himself awake, he was likewise much annoyed with large collections of wind in the stomach and bowels, his spirits were much cast down, and the depression had of late so much increased, that it led him to retire from society, which at this time was highly offensive to his state of feelings; appetite continued unimpaired, he was without fever, his eyes and countenance evi-

dened a deep dejection and disquieted mind, the bowels operated once daily, but in a very scanty and ill conditioned manner, he felt irritable and fretful from the slightest cause, and altogether seemed greatly disordered.

Having often found these symptoms brought on by an imperfect secretion of the biliary fluid, I was led to inspect the condition of the liver, and in what manner it performed its functions, both of which were far from being right; the abdomen felt full, hard, and tight, more particularly at the margin of the ribs near the liver, which was much thickened about its edge. I instantly employed the measures calculated to bring the liver into more action, in order that the bilious secretion might thereby be increased, which was gradually accomplished to the entire recovery of my patient in less than eight weeks.



Miss V——, of Welbeck-street, aged 25, of a full and robust constitution, with a florid complexion, had felt herself poorly these four months, and had gradually been getting worse. On her consulting me, she complained of constant head-achs, with giddiness, and a kind of dimness over the eyes at times, a full heavy pain at the pit of the stomach, pulse rather oppressed, no thirst, appetite but slightly impaired, bowels inclined to confinement, the catamenia regular, but lessened of late, very little exertion fatigued her, and if placed in a confined situation, she was apt to faint away, was much troubled with flatulence, could not, without some difficulty, keep herself awake after dinner. In closely investigating the nature of this case, I found some thickening at the edge of the liver, and some sensibility on pressure over it, the secretions of the bowels were small and vitiated. I ordered her to be cupped over the right side, which operation was repeated in five days; and as she was of a plethoric habit, ten ounces of blood was likewise taken from the arm; the bowels were well discharged, and by bringing the liver to form its bile in a correct quantity, and of a more healthy quality by deob-

struent and other auxiliary medicines, her health was entirely regained in less than seven weeks.

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Mrs. N——, of Edward-street, aged 34, of a plethoric temperament, had been suffering from indisposition four years previous to her application to me, when she complained of a pain in the left side, which she had experienced at intervals throughout her illness, but of late it had been more constant and increased, she was troubled with a teasing cough which had resisted the pectoral remedies prescribed, was highly irritable and nervous, and from the slightest cause appeared greatly agitated, the pulse hard, irregular, and frequent, rather thirsty, with a thick mucus covering the tongue near the throat, bowels irregular; a considerable increase of heat pervaded the surface of the body, more particularly the palms of the hands. These symptoms were so indicative of hepatic distress, as led me to entertain scarcely any doubt as to the primary source of the mischief going on, and which an examination entirely confirmed; for I instantly discovered some extensive enlargement of the liver, which was acutely sensible to the slightest pressure; the secretions likewise betrayed a strong evidence of their being poured out from an irritated and disordered organ. This case required some energy of treatment, as from the altered structure of its surface, it appeared to have been for a length of time suffering from disease. My patient most strictly adhered to the regimen and medicines recommended, which, by a perseverance in for ten weeks, entirely re-established her health.

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Colonel L——, of a full habit, had resided many years in the East Indies, and while there, had been attacked with acute hepatitis, which had so considerably broken his health, as to oblige his return to this country, in order to repair the conse



quences of this formidable malady. In the course of the voyage homeward, he seemed recovered, as no remains of hepatic affection were experienced. Upwards of two years after his return he was seized with a severe cold, which left behind it much weakness, considerable languor, and a general unnerved state; to remedy this, he had recourse to the usual palliatives of country air and mild tonics, notwithstanding which, he made but little progress towards the restoration of his health. At this period I was called to him, and on learning the history of the original hepatic disease, I had scarcely any doubt, that the chronic affection had gradually succeeded the acute complaint; that the liver, impeded in its circulation in consequence of previous derangement, was no longer able to secrete the bile in the due proportion, and that the whole symptoms which now attended him, as listlessness, stomach ailment, slow fever, and impaired action of the intestines, were to be traced to this morbid source, and only to be removed by ameliorating the state of this organ; it was also clear, that the attack of catarrh had brought the dormant hepatic disorder more into action, and hurried on the liver disease to its present aggravated condition.

On examining the liver, I found that it evidently gave pain on pressure; there was a slight puffiness and tenderness of its margin, although its general size did not seem much enlarged; his urine was generally pale, yet at times would shew a high saffron colour; the motions were light, clayey, partly soft, and partly compest, without the appearance of due assimilation.

Having so far satisfied myself of the patient's situation, I entertained no doubt of his recovering, by attention on his part, to the rules I should enjoin; he was immediately put on a course of active deobstruents, to restore the energy of the liver, and expand its circulation, by which the biliary secretion might be increased, and thereby give activity to the bowels, both for assimilation and discharge; in the course of ten days, the bowels began to betray those symptoms of gripings and heats, which most usually attend an increased secretion and discharge of bile (where previously it has been long confined); the alvine

matters assumed, of course, a more natural and healthy appearance and bilious colour, the distress of the stomach gradually gave less uneasiness, the appetite became improved, and the symptoms of fever that harrassed his nights, by degrees abated and wore off; his strength and health, by a strict adherence to the same arrangement for two months, were completely recovered. Upwards of three years have now passed and he has experienced no relapse.

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SIR,

Having read your publication on liver complaints, I am induced to consult you respecting my own case, which has been of long standing. Two years last January, I was taken suddenly with a violent pain over the left temple, a tight pain in the chest, accompanied with a cough, which for some months was very slight, after which it became more serious, and brought on pains in the sides. I can now only lay on the right side. I have almost constant pain in the shoulder-blades, bowels generally confined, tongue foul in a morning, frequent sickness, spirits at times greatly depressed.

I was for some time under the care of a medical gentleman, and became gradually better; I continued mending until February last, at which time I had a return of my former complaints, more acute than before, with an increase of disease. The medical gentleman who has lately been attending me, appears to have been treating me as if he considered mine was an affection of the lungs; but, on reading the case of Mrs. K. I am led to think that I am in a similar way, for I am always uneasy after meals, and can get no rest of a night, hands and feet always dry, and burning hot.

I have given you as clear a statement of my complaint as I can; if you think you can do me any good by sending me medicine, or if my being in town will be attended with more benefit to me, I will immediately, on hearing from you, come to town, where I will submit to every direction you may judge right to prescribe, as I have great confidence in your judgment, the great expe-

rience you have had must of course have given you advantages which few in the profession can have acquired. It may be right for me to inform you, that I am married, and have had no family, and now in my 29th year.

Sir, Respectfully yours,

P. L.

*Newmarket, Suffolk, April 2, 1815.*

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I have the gratification of saying, the above lady was under my care (without leaving home) ten weeks, in which time her health was completely restored.

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The subjoined highly important case, containing the history of a long continued affection of the liver, deserves every attention from the reader, as the subject of it is himself a professional character, who had been exposed for a series of years to the most powerful causes that induce hepatic disease.

*Colchester, 4th May, 1815.*

SIR,

Having met with a friend of mine, who informed me that he had been under your care for an affection of the liver, and that you fully re-established his health, after a most serious and long indisposition. I am, from the favourable result of this case, induced to consult you on my own. I am of the profession, and have had the satisfaction of succeeding in the cure of many chronic and other affections of the liver, but in my own case I have from my treatment not met with the wished-for success.

You will first read a brief statement of the origin of my primary attack, and then see the most prominent symptoms under which I am now suffering. I shall wait your direction by letter, until I can come to town, which I hope to be able to do ere long.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

T. S.



In the year 1809, I went on the expedition to Walcheren, where I suffered from the endemial fever of that island, which proved so destructive to our army. After my return to this country in November, I laboured under a chronic inflammation of the liver, which became enlarged, and painful to the touch. I continued for many months in this country, with all the symptoms of the above-mentioned diseased state of the liver. Mercury was used for some time as an alterative, and when I became convalescent, I embarked for the West Indies, and arrived at my destined island in February, 1810, in a much better state of health, and suffering very little from the disease of my liver, that organ appearing to have regained its natural healthy state, allowing me, with little interruption, to remain well during a residence in that unfriendly climate nearly two years and a half.

In 1813, I was on service with the army in Holland, and underwent, (during a very severe winter,) a most arduous campaign without illness, and returned to England in June, 1814, in perfect health; but in the month of August following, after leading rather a sedentary life, I was again attacked with much the same chronic affection of the liver, which has continued with but little amendment, and now left me in a state of which the under-mentioned are my most urgent symptoms;—viz.

Pain in the right hypochondriac region, with a fulness at the edge of the cartilages of the false ribs; this pain is increased after any meal, more especially after that of animal food, pressure with the finger produces additional pain, even the watch, if worn high in the common fob, causes great uneasiness, the side sometimes feels as if it had been bruised by a blow, or fall; when in bed, the easiest position is lying on the affected side; my nights are generally passed in a restless and watchful state; pulse usually quick and small, but without hardness, there is a general languor and lassitude, with diminished energy of the mind and body, anxiety and concern about things of minor importance, head-ach, constant drowsiness, and after dinner a disposition to sleep, and if that takes place, it is not

often of the refreshing kind, at this time the skin is generally hot and dry, particularly the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet, throbbing of the temporal arteries, &c.; tongue of a yellowish white appearance, which is more obvious on rising in the morning, with a dry and gummy state of the mouth and fauces, which continues, although in a less degree, for some time during the morning; appetite always good, constant costiveness, and the egesta seem to bear no proportion to the quantity of food taken into the stomach, which generally feels distended; there is sometimes flatulency after taking in food of any kind; the evacuations are small and usually of firm consistence, sometimes not much larger in size than a common tobacco pipe, with a rough or grooved surface, appearing as if they had been squeezed through a small and irregular passage, or pipe, lined with sand, or common scouring paper, they are often mottled, or of different colours, at the same time, frequently they are passed so that what has been taken as food appears in its original state; the most common articles which I have observed in the fæces are potatoes, raisins, or dried currants, suet, or such like things that are the most difficult of digestion, sometimes the stools are of a whitish brown colour, but in general they are of a too light colour, denoting great deficiency of secretion of the bile. After aperients have been used, the first loose stools are of a darker hue, and often they are of a blackish brown colour, but when the aperient, or alterative medicines are discontinued, the evacuations assume their usual light colour, resembling darkish clay.

The exercise of walking causes a distressed pain, or dull heavy weight to be felt between the shoulders, preventing the full extension and free motion of the arms; but this peculiar sensation, excited by exertion, is very difficult to be described, or conveyed to the feelings of any other but those who have experienced it. This state of the liver has been somewhat alleviated by horse exercise, abstraction of the mind from concern or care of any kind; regular diet of the most easy digestion, to the exclusion of *all* fermented liquors, assisted by native country

air during a mild spring, and the regular exhibition every night, or other night, of an alterative pill, and twice or thrice a week, taking a small quantity of the sulphate of magnesia diffused in a large portion of water.

This gentleman having placed himself implicitly under my direction, I laid down a plan of medicine and regimen, which he strictly adhered to for three months, when his health was completely re-established. After the first fortnight he came to town, when I had an opportunity of paying particular attention to him, which better enabled me to make those progressive alterations, which long continued and obstinate cases, such as the above, require. From this case it may be observed, that the danger of relapses, in constitutions which have acquired the disease in a warm climate, shews the necessity, on their return to this country, of attending most minutely to the state of the hepatic functions.

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Mr. G——, residing in Sloane-street, who was of middle stature, and rather of a full habit, aged 39, had been suffering from ill health three or four years, complained of having almost constant head-achs, with a general torpor of the whole frame, some slight sense of fulness at the pit of the stomach, frequent and considerable pain in the back and loins, and for which he had sought relief from various professional men, but without receiving any permanent or lasting benefit; feels often aching pains of the limbs, cramp, twitchings of the tendons; and frequently a pain in the left side below the shoulder blade, or rather towards the lower edge of it, and inclining to the back; bowels mostly confined, and what does pass, is with much straining effort, discharges but little urine, which is generally of a high colour; pulse slow and depressed; but of all the symptoms the most distressing to him are the pains of the back and loins.

On making pressure over the hypocondriac region, I felt the edge of the liver much thickened, and very painful if the



finger pressed deeply, the abdomen altogether was full and tense; the secretions of the bowels were highly out of order, and shewed, of themselves, sufficient evidence of a torpid and depraved biliary secretion.

These symptoms of pains in the back and loins are frequent attendants of an affection of the liver, for the organ here influences by contiguity and pressure, the investing membranes of the back, and communicates, through their medium, to the muscles which direct the motions of these parts: From the situation of the pain, it is too generally mistaken for a disease of the kidneys, gravel, or an attack of rheumatism in the form of lumbago, and the plan of treatment is accordingly pursued directly opposite to that suited to the nature of the disease. If, however, in these cases, the practitioner would carefully attend to the state of the liver, observe the secretions of the patient, and mark also the general appearances which distinguish a bilious habit, he soon would be sensible of his mistake, and by adopting his plan, properly to emulge this organ, and restore its functions to a regular and healthy condition, the malady would commonly be removed, and the same success attend his exertions as detailed in the preceding case, where perfect health was regained in seven weeks.

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In the early part of this year I attended a gentleman in the neighbourhood of Grosvenor Square, who had some time since retired from an official situation in the East Indies, where he had resided upwards of twelve years.

Previous to my attendance, he had been under the care of two eminent physicians. When I first visited him, he had been labouring under the attack of jaundice for some time, which was unusually severe; this attack was preceded by pain and great sensibility at the pit of the stomach, which was much increased every time he took solid food, his pulse was exceedingly quick and irregular, with much tightness, indicating, certainly, con-

siderable mischief ; his tongue was covered with a dusky yellow coating ; his countenance and eyes displayed a deep yellow tinge, inclining to brown, which was diffused in the same degree over the whole body, while the skin felt extremely parched, hot, and feverish.

The examination of the hypochondriac region, discovered great tension and uneasiness of the liver, which extended here and there, over the whole abdomen, the membrane feeling, as it were, unyielding and thickened ; indeed, his case altogether presented a dangerous aspect, and his friends were under considerable apprehensions respecting him. The stools were, as is usual in such cases, colourless, and every part of the system betrayed the greatest irritability and sense of suffering.

The first principle on which I proceeded, was to relieve the tension and fulness in the seat of the malady, by cupping over the right side, abstracting from the part eight ounces of blood, likewise ordering the following medicine :

R Pulv: Ipecac: Comp: gr. xv. fiant pilulæ tres hora somni sumendæ.

A thin gruel diet, with diluted vegetable acids, was rigidly enjoined, he was requested to keep his bed for two or three days. On the following day I found him decidedly better, with a gentle diaphoresis, and altogether more composed and comfortable ; his breathing, which had previously been confined and tightened, with hoarseness, wheezing, and some slight cough, was now materially relieved, yet, his bowels continued to discharge white stools. I then prescribed as under :

R Pulv: Jacob: ver:

Hydr: Submuriat: ãã gr. i.

Pulv: Scillæ

———— Ipecac: ãã gr. ss.

———— Cinnam: Comp: gr. i. Cons: q. s. M. Fiat pilula quarta vel sexta quaque hora sumenda.

Repeating the sedative pills at bed time, as first directed, he took also eighteen grains of the carbonate of ammonia, in barley water, every four or six hours, taking immediately after each dose, a table spoonful of lemon juice, in water; cooling saline drinks were advised with these medicines, and a mild farinaceous diet, while a proper attention to the state of the bowels was not omitted, their action being assisted by occasional doses of different combinations of cathartic and correcting medicines.

On continuing the above arrangement a few days, the constriction of the biliary ducts gave way, as indicated by the secretions, the pulse became soft and good; the whole case presented manifest signs of improvement, and that all impediments were subsiding. He was now requested to take, for a short time, the following medicines:

R Potass: Acet: ʒss.

Sacch: alb: gr. xx.

Tinct: Humuli ʒi.

Infus: Calumb: ʒiss. M. ft. Haust: Bis terve de die Capiendus.

R Pulv: Jacob: ver: gr. vi.

Al: Socot: gr. xvij.

Hydrar: Submur: gr. xij.

Pulv: Ipecac: gr. x.

—— Cinnam: Comp: gr. xij. M. Fiant pilulæ duodecim, Sumat unam omni nocte.

By pursuing the above remedies, the patient soon recovered his health and spirits, and the constitution regained its former vigour.

This, then, was a case of great danger; an obstinate jaundice marked the strong and rooted hepatic affection, which was even accompanied with a slow and insidious inflammation, the certain fore-runner of disorganization and fatal disease; no benefit



therefore could be expected from any treatment until this state of tension and inflammation was removed ; wherever such tension, irritability, and sensibility pervades the parietes of the abdomen, our first and grand object must be directed to the measures capable of overcoming this diseased condition of the membrane ; this point being accomplished, we then are enabled to proceed with those apposite remedies, corresponding with the state of the constitution at this period ; by which the re-establishment of the healthful secretion of the liver will be effected, so indispensable to the well being and security of the patient.

Contrary, therefore, to common opinion, and particularly in the case of one, who had been so long the inhabitant of a warm climate, I determined on bleeding from the part, as the most certain and approved means of relief in the first instance, the success attending it shewed the propriety of the measure ; for indeed, the ulterior object of the practitioner would be frustrated without such previous and necessary depletion.



The annexed case was given me for consultation by the patient himself, a gentleman aged 33, and I here insert his own account of his complaint.

“ As well as I can recollect, it may be nine months since I first observed symptoms of fulness at the chest, and flatulence of the belly, which were more sensibly felt when in a bending position. These sensations not being accompanied with any particular pain, were not attended to until about Christmas, when I was attacked with much pain at the chest, resembling, what is commonly termed, heart-burn. I took several doses of magnesia, but not finding it have the desired effect, I applied to a medical gentleman, who immediately declared the complaint to be an affection of the liver. Under his care I obtained relief, and finding myself more comfortable, I declined further assistance, hoping I was in a fair way of recovery.

“ I, however, soon perceived the former symptoms returning, and found it necessary again to apply for medical aid, which I did to the same gentleman ; under his directions I took several bottles of mixture, which much relieved the flatulence of the lower part ; and for the complaint at the chest, I took pills, and made use of the external application of mercurial ointment ; this treatment again relieved me, and I once more, and with his consent, abstained from the further use of medicine. This may be about five weeks since ; but I find, that though not now so violently affected as formerly, the disorder is not eradicated.

“ The foregoing being a kind of narrative of my proceedings in the case, I shall briefly trouble you with some few observations as to the various symptoms I have experienced.

“ A leading feature of the complaint has been a hot sensation at the chest, attended with a great degree of oppression, as though the end of a stick, or some substance, was forcibly applied to the extremity of the breast-bone, (at this part considerable palpitation sometimes occur, which is so strong as to be visible to the eye), and though the hot pain has occasionally seemed to shoot to the right side, as far as to the edge of the ribs, the centre of the stomach has always appeared to be by far the principal seat of complaint.

“ When the disorder has given most uneasiness, pains have frequently been felt between the shoulders, and under the right blade-bone.

“ Head-ach in the fore part has much attended the disorder.

“ Appetite sometimes affected, but never reduced to a very bad state.

“ Sleep not banished, but much shortened ; frequently not being able to obtain it for a considerable time after going to bed, and when once awoke, not able to recover it.

“ The general and most distressing effect has been, a very great degree of langour and debility ; operating powerfully on the spirits, which, prior to the manifestation of the disorder, were of a lively cast.

“These particulars will probably enable Mr. Faithhorn to form a correct opinion of my case, which I am happy to say does not appear so bad as it was two months back, but still stands in need of some skilful assistance.”

On examining the side of this patient, by placing him in a relaxed position, I found the liver evidently hardened and thickened at its edge, and the parietes of the abdomen felt more tense and less yielding than natural, such as marked a previous peritoneal inflammation; and, on further enquiry, I learned that a slight affection of this kind had taken place some time ago, when he experienced much uneasiness about these parts.

The practice here adopted was similar to what I have before recommended, employing such deobstruents as would soften and restore the natural ductility of these parts confined by the morbid change, and to open the obstructed secretion; his recovery, under this system of treatment, was procured in eleven weeks.

Mr. T——, of Bond Street, aged 32, of thin make, and tall stature, had for two years been indisposed with all those symptoms which mark some obstruction of the hepatic organ, and imperfect secretion of bile. His pulse was considerably intermitting, and a sensible interruption of it could be observed three or four times in the minute, shewing an obstruction to the regular performance of the heart. This hesitation in the circulation, would vary materially, at times, as to its pauses; so violent was it occasionally, so forcible and permanent the sense of obstruction, that in bed he was obliged to start up, alarmed by a violent jerk at his side, such as marks the disease termed *angina pectoris*.

On observing the side and abdomen, I found much fulness, tension, and a general bracing pervade the whole abdomen. In all such cases, no practitioner is justified in laying down



any plan of treatment on equivocal symptoms, until he has fully ascertained the state of the abdomen and hypochondriac region. Proceeding by that information, the same method of treatment I instituted here, as has been already pointed out in various parts of the work, and after a course of medicines and diet correctly observed, an entire recovery was obtained in nine weeks.

This case is one highly instructive, as it demonstrates that hepatic diseases may be attended with all those alarming symptoms, which mark the most fatal maladies. Physicians, therefore, cannot be too cautious in attending to the state of the hepatic organs, before they pronounce the affection either to arise from an organic disease of the heart or large blood vessels; for it is well known, that the enlargement of any organ in the neighbourhood of the great vessels proceeding from the heart, will, by its pressure, affect the circulation, and vary the state of pulsation.

We have seen the enlargement of the liver, by its pressure on the diaphragm, produce all the symptoms of pulmonary consumption; in like manner, the enlargement of the same organ at its posterior and internal part, has been known to obstruct the vena cava, and the contiguous circulation, so as to induce all the symptoms of angina pectoris, and other affections resembling a disease of the heart, which affections have yielded to those means which are known to subdue hepatic enlargement; in a similar way the circulation has been affected by the condition of the intestines, when a fixed accumulation of hardened and acrid matter has been impacted in one part, which has produced the same pressure on the descending vessels; hence practitioners should be guarded, and not too hasty in forming their opinions, as they are apt, by such precipitancy, to create unnecessary apprehensions, to deviate from the proper course of treatment, and often to augment, instead of relieving, the distressing feelings of the patient. Cases of this kind I have frequently met with, and by referring them to their true cause, have generally succeeded in their cure.

I was consulted the 10th of February last, by a gentleman of rank in the neighbourhood of Berkley Square, who had been ill for twelve months. The following is his statement, as written by himself. “ I have been unwell for upwards of twelve months, am seldom without feeling a lightness and pain of the head, with frequent darting pains, as though they went through the direction of the eye to the forehead, these pains are instantaneous, and appear to go to the nerve ; they sometimes alarm me, feel often a swimming and cracking sound in my ears, as though water had got into them ; I also experience an oppression of breathing ; pulse very irregular ; frequent pains and stiffness in my knees and ancles, a want of elasticity in them ; likewise a soreness of the bone under the elbow, without any appearance of inflammation ; have often pains in my shoulders, cramp in my feet, a soreness in my wrists and thighs, as though I had been beaten ; feel frequently an uneasy sensation in my chest, as though something had difficulty in making a passage, and this occasions dartings in my head ; I sometimes experience a hardness at the pit of my stomach, with a desire to eruct for relief ; on awaking in the morning, am not at all refreshed, but wearied, as though I had been much distressed in my sleep ; my mouth hot, tongue dry and white, but no particular desire for drink ; feel at this time my hands cramped and lifeless, as though I had lain upon them ; generally relish my breakfast, and find myself in better spirits until about one o'clock, when I feel low and depressed ; appetite tolerable, yet with no very great relish. Urine varies much, both in colour and quantity, and when passed, largely resembles spring water, then I feel extremely nervous and uncomfortable ; at other times, when high coloured and less in quantity, I find myself better ; the evacuations from the bowels, appear, according to my conception, to want a stimulus to force them on, they frequently come from me in dried pieces, resembling a raisin or prune, coated with a fœtid mucus, or matter rather offensive ; at other times they are of a light

‘spongy substance, swimming at the top of the water, oftentimes with some bloody matter, like piles, and when this takes place, I am very irritable and uneasy at my stomach, with head-ach, dimness of vision, and a sense of febrile heat and inertness.’”

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The above case was conducted on the same principles I have so often pointed out, by which, health was regained in the course of nine weeks.

This case is one, which, a practitioner often meets with, where the symptoms are so numerous, varied and equivocal, that it is only by pursuing the rules laid down, of carefully noticing the secretions; that its true nature can be distinguished from a nervous malady; for nervous symptoms are the most deceitful of any which attack the system. This highly delicate organism, which makes us alive at every pore, and is the harbinger of alarm on every critical occasion, is equally deranged by a faulty condition of the biliary secretion, as from any other cause.

Hence, when nervous affections become fixed and obstinate, and do not yield to that mode of treatment which is directed to a primary affection, or diseased condition of the nerves themselves, it may be ascribed to hepatic irregularities, and by prosecuting a mode of cure connected with this principle, it will be found invariably to succeed in removing the complaint.

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*Norwich, May 16th, 1815.*

SIR,

I see in your valuable publication, which I have purchased a few days since, that you are consulted by letter respecting affections of the liver; I will therefore state my case as plainly as I can, which, in most of the particulars, resemble that of a gentleman who consulted you by letter, page 131. If you think mine of that description, from the symptoms given, I shall gratefully remember the same, if you will prescribe—and advise accordingly what I should do. I have, when in company, occa-



sionally taken too much wine, which I feel the ill effects of, for several days and have little or no appetite for a day or two; I lately was attacked with a severe pain at the pit of my stomach and right side, about the middle and edge of my ribs, with flatulence in my bowels; after that a bilious diarrhœa came on, and what passed was very hot, with urine hot and high coloured; I took some Epsom salts two successive mornings, which greatly relieved me, am almost free from pain, but has still left a fulness in my right side, with a dull pain from my shoulder-blade down my back, with a fulness in my stomach, particularly after dinner.

I have been for these few years troubled with a bilious complaint, at least I have thought it of that nature, my stomach being easily disturbed with acids; bowels often disordered, lax stools and very hot, which often bring on piles, often a dull pain in my back towards the right side; my appetite in general very good.

I do not apprehend my case immediately alarming, but will take it as a great favour, if you will relieve me from the symptoms I have stated, my friend who is the bearer of this, will give you any further information you require.

I am,

Your's respectfully,

H. S.

A friend of the above gentleman residing in town, delivered me this letter, when he gave me every information requisite. By a strict attention and perseverance to the plan of treatment recommended, I had the satisfaction to learn from his last correspondence, dated July 7, that his health was perfectly re-instated.

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That an increased sensibility of the liver, and strong inflammatory action often attends chronic affections of the organ, which have existed for years, is clearly demonstrated in the following case, drawn up by the patient herself, a lady aged 35, of rather a robust and full habit. It is one which shews that great judgment and discrimination are necessary in making the proper

distinctions in the treatment, and that the mercurial principle so much followed, will not uniformly succeed, and is not even admissible for a period until *increased excitement* is removed.

“I have constant pain and soreness on each side the stomach, and at times, the whole of the right side affected to the back, and frequently communicates to the shoulder, more particularly the right, and sometimes a pricking pain there; when the side is not so much affected, a great internal heat in the lower part of the bowels, and much irritation after passing urine, or stool; the former very frequent, particularly when walking, or any exertion; the bowels in general costive, though, at times, extremely relaxed, amounting to dysentery; after breakfast, frequently a pain in the pit of the stomach, which continues for an hour or two, particularly if walking; in the winter, the breath and chest was so much affected that it had all the appearance of asthma, with a violent hard cough, which returns if the air is sharp; particularly susceptible of cold, and have frequent shiverings; a fulness after meals, and a length of time before the food digests; a tolerable appetite, though soon satisfied, and more inclination for fruit and vegetables than any other diet; can fast very long without uneasy sensations, or desire for food; a great heat of a morning all over the sides and bowels; restless nights, with heavy, though unrefreshing sleep, and great difficulty of turning in bed; the pulse in general low, and great lassitude throughout the whole frame, but seldom depression of spirits; much wind in the bowels; a pain in the legs after walking, particularly up hill; carriage exercise always of service; have occasionally taken calomel in small quantities, and salts about a quarter of an ounce at a time, from which, found only temporary relief, and always left languor and irritation; frequent gripings in the bowels, and almost every medicine produces it; very seldom sick at the stomach, and never, even at sea, throw up bile; aloes disagree, and all heating medicines, the stools being always hot and acrid, attended with considerable forcing pain; extremities cold and very difficult to be thrown into a perspiration; subject to faintness when at stool,

which is not unfrequently attended with piles and the falling of the gut. About twelve years since the first attack of the disorder, and have been afflicted with it, more or less, ever since, but for the last two years, the symptoms have been daily getting worse.

E. K."

"I forgot to mention that, at times, my urine is as clear as spring water, and in large quantities, at others very thick, and little of it; exercise, in general, produces the former, particularly walking."

From the very minute detail of the above case, by the patient, who appears to have watched the progress of her complaint with the utmost attention, I was led to expect very important disease of the abdominal viscera, and my examination fully verified my suspicion. Considerable mischief could be traced through the liver and spleen, both of these organs were much increased in size, and were also acutely sensible to the touch, any pressure on the parts occasioned considerable pain, which extended throughout the whole peritoneal membrane.

Although this case exhibited such extraordinary derangement, as from common view, to demand the use of mercury, yet, from the high irritability and marked inflammatory action present, the use of *that* medicine, at this period, in any shape, must have been productive of great evil, from the additional excitement induced on that chain of organs already suffering from over stimulus; and here I may remark, that although this medicine is allowed to possess great power in hepatic complaints, yet, its indiscriminate use, in many cases, have done infinite harm, and thus brought it, not unjustly, into discredit.

It is right to observe, that wherever an active inflammatory disposition exists, a subduction of it must be effected, until that end is obtained, all manner of excitement must be avoided, consequently, abstraction of blood must form the first step in our curative arrangement; cupping, therefore, over the diseased region was immediately employed, and repeated in three days; finding those means of depletion were insufficient to unload the



vessels, I was obliged to direct the application of leeches, and recourse was, of necessity, again had to them in six days.

The diet and regimen were, of course, strictly antiphlogistic, and all cordial stimuli totally forbidden.

With this preliminary, the use of the medicines, here specified, was directed :

R Magn: Sulph: ʒi.

Sodæ: Carbon: gr. xx.

Syr: Cort: Aur: ʒss.

Aq: Carui: ʒij.

Tinct: Cardam: Comp: ʒss.

Aq: Distil: ʒx. M: ft: Haust: ter in die  
capiendus.

R Ext: Rhei gr. viij.

Ammon: Carb: gr. iij.

Ext: Tarax: gr. viij. Fiant Pil: tres,

Sumt: unam cum sing: haust: supra.

In the course of a fortnight, from the commencement of this plan, a sensible amendment was discoverable by a reduction of the size of the diseased parts, and a diminution of that morbid sensibility which marked the state of increased action ; from the patient's attention to herself, and strictly adhering to the directions given, I entertain the most sanguine hopes of effecting her recovery, although, from the length of time during which the disease has existed, it must require a considerable period before this can be accomplished.

The following interesting case was recently sent to me for consultation, by a gentleman who ranks high in the medical profession.

SIR,

I am much pleased by the perusal of your late Treatise on Bilious Diseases, and so convinced am I of the truths therein

contained, that I am induced to ask your opinion of my own case, I have adopted this mode previous to my seeing you, partly from an unwillingness to take up your time, and partly that you may reflect on it at your leisure.

Many years ago I had a smart attack of jaundice, which was removed in a few days, but from that period I have been more or less subject to dyspepsia, great irregularity of bowels; at times, sudden and violent attacks of diarrhœa, accompanied by tormina; and at other times obstinate constipation; these complaints have been made worse by campaigning in Egypt, Sicily, Spain, and other parts.

My present symptoms are great flatulency of bowels, languor, drowsiness, irregular appetite, and my evacuations are by no means in proportion to the food I take in, are small, and always in the form of scybala, vary in colour, and sometimes come away in a pultaceous form, and look like gruel; I have, occasionally, great anxiety near the duodenum, and likewise about the transverse arch of the colon, which is more or less distended with air. If you can put me into a way of becoming more tolerable, I shall be greatly obliged to you.

I have had the advice of many medical friends, have visited Cheltenham and Bath, and have taken a farrago of medicines, none of which appear to have done any more than afford temporary relief.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

G. Y.

Surgeon to the Forces, &c. &c.

*Piccadilly, July 2, 1815.*

I was, accordingly, visited by the above gentleman, and having given him my opinion of his case, such measures of treatment were recommended as he highly approved of, and which he has since carried into effect, with much satisfaction and comfort to himself.

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## CONCLUSION.

On considering the enumeration of the different varieties of chronic hepatitis, it will strike every reader, that the disease is one of the most fallacious nature that can occur to a practitioner; he has, for the most part, no pain to direct him in the early stage of the complaint, and should any uneasiness be present, in a majority of cases, it fixes itself in the opposite side to that, which forms the seat of the affection; he is, therefore, left entirely to form his judgment from collected observation on a variety of symptoms, such as we have embodied in the history; yet, notwithstanding, all the information derived from these sources, he is often under the necessity of resorting to that dernier and infallible guide for his direction, the state of the secretions; as well as to a minute examination of the hypochondriac region, so far as it can be accomplished; thus he will seldom be mistaken in a just opinion of the malady, and if so, his treatment will be conducted on such rational principles, as to ensure, in the greater number of cases, a favorable issue of the disease.

An examination alone, however proper, will not invariably determine the precise condition of the liver; as this organ, to the touch, may feel in the most correct state at its inferior edge, while, at the same time, its upper surface may be enduring the greatest inroads of disease and alteration of structure. It is from this circumstance being overlooked, that cases of liver disease have so frequently foiled practitioners, from their true seat and nature lying beyond manual detection.

So, on the whole, we cannot too often repeat, that in forming our judgment, we are not to be guided in all cases either by the apparent symptoms, or yet by the examination of the part for ascertaining the existence of such diseases, but must rest chiefly on the appearance and changes passing on the biliary secretion; by such evidence as these passing changes demonstrate, we can never be misled in marking the presence or absence of disease, a truth which cannot too frequently be noticed or imprest on



the minds of practitioners and patients; for here we have more direct and certain means of developing the hidden cause of the evil, than from any other source.

The method of treatment pointed out in the above work, is built on the solid basis of experience, and requires no aid from the seducing embellishments of hypôthetical and far fetched reasoning; the construction of theories and indulgence in imaginary causes of disease, have greatly impeded the progress of real practical science; for whatever merit either of ingenuity or originality these theories may possess, they have only flourished to be forgotten, and the most eminent speculating physicians have left little on record of utility to mankind, to prevent their memory sinking into oblivion.

On the other hand, in a practical point of view, a consideration of the vast importance of the biliary secretion in the animal economy, naturally leads to correct indications, and consistent measures of treatment; the neglect of this, I am persuaded, has been, not unfrequently, the cause that many have fallen sacrifices to disorders, from which they might have otherwise completely recovered.

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## ERRATA.

*Page 20, line first, omit the word secretions.*

— 31, *line seventh, for “most,” read “so.”*







SMITH



